

Hafa Adai!

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The first international charter jet landed at the Tinian International Airport last Friday.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Tinian welcomes int'l flight

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

SAN JOSE Tinian—A phalanx of CNMI and Tinian officials welcomed the first direct charter flight from Asia at the Tinian International

Airport last Friday, with hopes that the arrivals would signal an influx of tourists to the island and the revival of its economy.

With Gov. Ralph DLG Torres himself at the head of the delegation,

See TINIAN on Page 4

Woman drowns at Forbidden

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A 30-year-old Korean woman drowned, while her 32-year-old husband is still missing after swimming in the waters off Forbidden Island last Saturday.

San Nicolas not seeking re-election

Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas announced on Saturday that he will not be seeking re-election as mayor in the upcoming 2018 general election.

Instead, San Nicolas plans to support Rep. Edwin P. Aldan's (R-Tinian)



San Nicolas

bid for mayor. Aldan is currently a Tinian representative at the Legislature.

"As much as I would love to continue serving Tinian as mayor, it is important that I take this time to focus on my health and my family. For those rea-

» Husband still missing

According to the Department of Public Safety, at approximately 12:14pm last Jan. 13, DPS received word about a drowning incident at the Forbidden Island in Kagman.

A female witness who reported

See WOMAN on Page 4

sons, I will not be seeking another term," said San Nicolas.

He counts among his accomplishments settling the \$1.3-million federal levy against the Tinian municipality, breaking ground and completing infrastructure projects on the island, from the water tank to the new de-

See SAN NICOLAS on Page 4

HK investors eye Dynasty

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

SAN JOSE, Tinian—Nine investors from Hong Kong visited Tinian last Friday to scope out possible investment opportunities and to discuss the possibility of re-opening the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

Tinian Dynasty shut its doors due to federal fines worth millions of dollars and is now a possible investment venture for Tinian Entertainment Corp. owner Tim Chen.

Last Friday, Chen chartered the first international flight from Hong

Kong to Tinian and took with him eight other investors from the former crown colony.

According to Chen, his company was one of the creditors that backed the former management of the Tinian Dynasty before it was shut down in 2015.

Chen said that it was the Tinian Dynasty is what brought him to the island in the first place.

"I'm the creditor of the Dynasty and that's the reason I first came here," he said. He then came to like the island so much that it motivated him to convince eight other inves-

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INSIDE



LOCAL

The Marianas Visitors Authority launches a "Marianagenic" promo on Instagram.

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NATION

A wave of panic rattles Hawaii after a false missile alert.

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FOCUS

Trump's insult of Africa was a puzzle for many foreign media organizations.

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Local

BOE chair: Proposed salary hike reasonable

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

CNMI Board of Education
chair Marylou Ada is tak-

ing issue with what she describes as “baseless rumors” about the disparity of salaries among teachers and administrative officers in the Public School System.

“One has to understand that the salary compensation plan from the Board of Education is based on reasonable grounds,” she said. “We look at three qualifications: years of service in PSS, certifications and professional development of the individual. Nothing more, nothing less.”

These are factored into the salary level of a teacher or administrative official, she said.

“So not all teachers that were highly qualified were treated in the same category because some of them have not been certified. After one

receives a basic certification, the need to get certified on other teaching programs never stop and we give credence to that,” she added.

“For example, if one has the basic certification and not a lot of experience, then you are not going to get much further than somebody who has gone and finished a master’s degree, attended a lot of professional development, and has been employed by PSS for 15 years,” Ada said.

The difference weighs in because the board follows a rigorous merit system for the compensation plan.

“The more you advance yourself, the more you get a higher salary. But people are comparing apple to oranges without looking at the facts of how we compensate them.

Everybody thinks that all the teachers should be [at] the same level when it comes to salary increase,” she said.

“The issue got blown out of proportion but what we look at are the number of years of experience, certifications, and what level of degrees are you holding. Some of them are master’s degree holders and some [have] double master’s degree and they get additional credit for that,” she added.

According to Ada, some teachers may have highly-qualified certifications 1 and 2 and may have been in the system for a time but if they only have a bachelor’s degree, the line is drawn there, compared to someone with a master’s degree.

“The more you want to go up, the more you want

to improve yourself professionally. It boils down to professional development, particularly the years of development and how far are you along with your educational attainment. It may be master’s level, and if you have a double master’s, that means more points,” she said.

“They have this perception that every teacher, every councilor, every librarian should be receiving the same salary because...every administrative officer 3 receives the same salary and they are added 5 percent every year. But in our system, we are talking about professional people that have years of experience and higher educational attainment that’s different from other colleagues,” she added.

 **LOTTERY**
PACIFIC
GOLD

RESULTS

Draw # **3807** Draw Date **1/13/2018**

Winning Numbers

45 36 16 19 6 1

This Game **74** **CNMI WINNERS!**

Next Weeks Jackpot **\$2 MILLION**

Bank teller arrested for alleged theft

A bank employee was arrested Friday morning by Criminal Investigation Bureau detectives for allegedly stealing more than a thousand dollars from the Bank of Saipan.

Caroline Borja, 33, who works as a teller at the bank, was arrested in Papago.

Last Dec. 29, the Bank of Saipan in Chalan Kanoa reported that Borja, who was

an employee during that time, stole approximately \$1,250.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley M. Bogdan issued and signed the arrest war-

rant for Borja, and set the bail at \$5,000.

Borja was admitted to the Department of Corrections and is awaiting bail hearing this week. *(Bea Cabrera)*



LUCKY 7 FUEL & WIN

Congratulations to this weeks winners!

Ernest H Sablan
Lucky 7 6*****47960
Neil Agulto
Esselmina E Leong
Bernaldo T Ermita



ICE looking at securing additional holding cells

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A representative of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security told the House of Representatives last Friday that his division wants to secure more holding cells for illegal aliens in the CNMI.

In a meet-and-greet with members of the Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs, Patrick McCallion, a member of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, said his division is seeking to secure funding for this purpose.

While not permitted to speak to reporters, McCallion

told committee members led by Rep. Gregorio M. Sablan Jr. (R-Saipan) that an agreement has already been reached between his division and CNMI court marshals. All that is left is to secure the funds.

The setup is that illegal aliens would either be re-

moved or detained in Guam.

"We have been removing people [from the CNMI] on a weekly basis," he told the committee.

He assured the committee that the additional holding quarters should be secured in the second quarter of 2018.

Sablan described the

meeting with ICE as "very beneficial."

"[The representative] has been very informative on what ICE is trying to do to prevent overstaying aliens in the CNMI," he said.

The meeting arose out of Rep. Ivan A. Blanco's (R-Saipan) House Resolution 20-09, which encourages Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to support shortening the length of stay of tourists who enter the CNMI through the Guam-CNMI visa-waiver program. Countries under this program

include Russia and China.

H.R. 20-09 pushes reducing the 45-day window for Russian and Chinese tourists to about 10 to 15 days.

"We look forward to not only get information on what is being done to lessen the number of overstaying aliens but at the same time know what kind of assistance we could offer," said Sablan. He added that it was the position of the committee to support and cooperate with ICE in order to lessen the number of overstaying aliens.



PUERTO RICO-BOUND

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary Camacho, standing far right, introduces the five men—composed of four linemen and one administrative staff—who will be deployed for 60 days to Puerto Rico to the CUC board during a regular meeting held last Friday. The men will help with the island's restoration efforts after being hit by Hurricane Maria in September last year. According to Camacho, CUC was asked by the American Public Power Association to join other public power utilities in this endeavor. The men are, standing left to right, administrative support liaison Joseph Crisostomo, foreman Frederico Lizama, trades technician Raymond Quitano, headman Joseph Lizama, and trades technician Kevin Hidalgo. They are set to leave on Jan. 17.

BEA CABRERA

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KEVIN'S
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Limited labor also bugs CUC

By BEA CABRERA

bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is not immune to the effects of the 3,000-slot reduction in the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker Program this fiscal year and it is losing staff because of the cap set by U.S. Citizenship Immigration Services for 2018.

According to CUC executive director Gary Camacho, with the many changes in the CW situation in the CNMI, CUC has been impacted as well.

"In the beginning of 2017, we had a total of 33 CWs working at CUC. Currently, we now have 16 and the others are waiting for the approval of their H1B



Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary Camacho presents to the CUC board the current workforce situation of CUC amidst the CW-1 crisis in the CNMI at the regular board meeting held last Friday

BEA CABRERA

HK

From Page 1

tors to visit Tinian with him and discuss investing in the Tinian Dynasty.

"I have been thinking a lot about investing here so I tried to convince them to put some investment on this island because it is so beautiful. We will have a meeting with [Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas] on how we can do

it," he said.

Chen is unsure of when the doors of the Tinian Dynasty could be reopened but he hopes, through his investments and his companion's investments, it will open soon. "I don't know. I hope as soon as possible," he said.

He is unwilling, however, to be saddled with \$7 million worth of federal fines that's attached to the property. "I hired some lawyers in Washington, D.C. and I am talking with them

right now. I hope we can solve the problem soon," he said.

According to San Nicolas, hotel rooms are now a must-have on the island of Tinian as a result of the newly established international terminal.

"The next step is to make sure we do have rooms but when we had 435 rooms available, the first thing that any investor would ask is 'what about your flights coming in, do you have a port that accepts international flights? so this

takes care of that," he said.

San Nicolas is looking forward to the owners of the Tinian Dynasty or other possible developers re-opening the property.

He said there are other investors looking at Tinian like the Tinian Entertainment Corp., the Bridge Investment Group, and the Alter City Group.

"I am aware of the plans... we expect to have three hotels and casinos on the island," he said.

SAN NICOLAS

From Page 1

parture terminal at the Tinian International Airport, continuing with municipal public employment, and the continued delivery of programs and services to the community despite the closure of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

"I am proud to say that I have completed most of the list on my project priority list and but I realize that there is so much more to be done to revitalize Tinian's economy," he said.

He pointed out that welcoming the first international flight on Tinian last week lays the foundation and the pathway to inviting investment

opportunities to help grow the Tinian economy.

"Despite what seemed to have been insurmountable challenges, we have persevered, and we have kept Tinian moving forward," he said.

He said he sought the mayoral seat three years ago as he wanted to make a difference. He also felt it important for those of us who have had the privilege of attaining a college degree to return home and give back through public service.

"It is my belief that each and every one of us has a moral obligation to our community, to give back and contribute to improving the lives of our people," he added.

He assured Tinian, though, that despite his decision to not

seek re-election, his commitment to serving the people of Tinian "remains unwavering."

"We can disagree about which path to take to better the lives of our people but I'm sure that there is no disagreement on our source of inspiration—the love for our people and our beloved Tinian. My love, commitment, and passion for our island remains steadfast. In this last year, I will dedicate all my abilities to continue building on the progress we have made, continue finding ways to grow our economy but more importantly, finding ways to keep Tinian moving forward for our people!

"The progress we have made would not have been possible without the combined efforts of the Tinian leader-

ship. Our collective efforts and united front to champion Tinian causes has been instrumental to my administration's ability to complete projects and to bring to Tinian resources to ensure the continued delivery of essential programs and services. [Rep.] Edwin P. Aldan has led the charge in many fronts of this effort. There is no doubting his love and commitment for the people of Tinian. More important, however, is his willingness and ability to set aside his personal politics for the sake of the people in his service to Tinian. [Rep.] Aldan has announced his bid for mayor of Tinian and it is with pride that I endorse his bid for the 2018 mayoral race." (*Saipan Tribune*)

Smiling Cove Marina via Tasi Tour boat and was conscious upon arrival.

The woman was immediately transported to CHC and has been treated and released as of yesterday.

According to DPS the victim arrived on Managaha at 9:30am and went for a swim at the northwestern side of the island.

The victim, who did not know how to swim, followed her friend into the water and panicked when her feet could no longer touch the seafloor.

applications," he said.

"Those applications that were denied will be resubmitted in April 2018. There have been a few who have decided that their career with CUC has ended and have since returned to their homeland after the expiration of their contracts," he added.

Camacho said a lot of these people have had many years of experience with CUC and replacing them will not be easy.

"Do understand the conditions that is needed with our power plant, so it's very difficult in replacing them at this particular junction until we get people developed," he said.

"We are concerned with the idea of not having qualified personnel at power generation and what effect it would have at the existing infrastructure and inevitably in the community," he added.

He assured, though, that CUC's power plant manage-

ment is still under control.

"With the economic development we have been experiencing, we have more facilities to deal with but I have been assured by the power plant management team that they have things under control," he said.

"I have respect for the experts of the power plant and all the hardworking people there," he added.

CUC Human Resources manager Andrew Orsini said that CUC has six H-1B holders awaiting renewals.

"One has been approved already by USCIS and others are still pending. We are waiting for the outcome. Eight members have actually paid the premium payment to get the answer from USCIS right away to speed up the process because they have families here," he said.

"CUC is doing its best to help these workers and we are positive that things will work out," he added.

TINIAN

From Page 1

Tinian welcomed the first international flight from Hong Kong—a private jet—and celebrated the completion of the Tinian International Airport terminal that has been in the works for over a decade.

A total of nine people were aboard the flight, all of them investors, and Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas signified that he would be hosting them during the duration of their stay.

Torres said the event is a huge milestone not only for Tinian but for the entire Northern Marianas Islands.

"This [international flight] gives other investors the opportunity to [invest] here," he said.

He commended the leadership of the Tinian municipality for pushing forward with the terminal project and finally making it happen, no matter how long it took.

"You have the right leadership, the right commitment, great resources, and you put that together, and here is the product of true leadership, that no matter where you are at and no matter what obstacles we have before us, we are able to fulfill it and we opened this kind of project," said Torres.

Kimberly King-Hinds, the Tinian representative on the Commonwealth Ports Authority board, said that that Friday's flight is only the beginning.

"I'm excited, it is a great day for Tinian, but really, this is a day to recognize that we still have a lot of work to do," she said. "There is still much work to be done...as it relates to [Customs and Border Pro-

tection] and the [Transportation Security Administration] combined," she added.

San Nicolas said it was a proud day for the island but he agrees that there is still much to be done.

San Nicolas is appreciative of all the government agencies that banded together to complete the terminal renovations that led to welcoming for the first Asian international flight.

"I am very happy as the mayor and I am happy for the people and we look forward to more progress as we move forward for our island and our Commonwealth," said San Nicolas.

The next step for Tinian, according to San Nicolas, is the establishment of hotel rooms for guests and investors. The island's biggest hotel, the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, remains closed.

Tinian Entertainment Corp. owner Tim Chen chartered the flight from Hong Kong to Tinian.

"I just want to support Tinian... it is paradise...I love this island and I feel like I am part of Tinian island so I really want Tinian to be successful," he said.

Chen said his companions on the trip were possible Tinian investors.

According to Chen, the flight took about four hours and it was different from the way he usually flies to Tinian. "Direct flights are much easier," he said.

Chen told the media that he got onboard the project with the Tinian municipality about two years ago.

"We faced a lot of difficulty before...a lot of people said it was impossible, but we did it and we are so excited about that," he said.

WOMAN

From Page 1

the incident said the two went underwater and failed to resurface.

DPS Boating Safety officers responded to the scene and were later joined by the Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services and the U.S. Coast Guard, which launched their helicopter from Guam at 3:37pm.

DPS conducted a sea search, along with the U.S.

Coast Guard, while DFEMS search-and-rescue did a cliffline search.

The woman's body was found at around 1:32pm near the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort clubhouse cliffline. She was immediately brought to the Commonwealth Health Center. She was pronounced dead by Dr. Nicholas R. Villalon at 2:40pm.

The man, who is believed to be her husband due to the IDs found in their rental vehicle, remains missing.

DPS stopped the search for

the man at 6:21pm Saturday evening due to lighting conditions and resumed the search yesterday morning. DPS has yet to release information on the man's whereabouts.

Boating Safety, the U.S. Coast Guard, Fish and Wildlife's boat, and the DFEMS joined DPS in the search yesterday.

In related news, a near-drowning incident on Managaha Island was also reported last Saturday at 11:21am.

A 26-year-old Chinese female was transported to the

Club 88 theft suspect surrenders

After over a month of hiding, the man suspected of taking off with over \$30,000 from the Club 88 mini casino in

Oceanview Hotel in Garapan last Dec. 1 surrendered to the Criminal Investigation Bureau last Friday at 11:53am.

Daniel Stafford, former manager of Club 88, has been hiding since Dec. 1 when police responded to a call about a theft incident at the mini casino. According to the caller, the vault should have contained

\$32,203 but just had \$1,900.

Stafford was immediately the person of interest because he was nowhere to be found and, as club manager, he was the only employee who had access to the vault.

Last Dec. 7, an arrest warrant was issued against Stafford for the charge of theft, with the bail set at \$50,000.

Police also investigated Redge Ordonia Dampil, reportedly an Imperial Pacific Inter-

national employee believed to be Stafford's girlfriend and was believed to be harboring the fugitive.

Stafford is currently being held at the Department of Corrections. **(Bea Cabrera)**

MVA earmarks \$250K for Rota charter flights

By **BEA CABRERA**
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority has allocated \$250,000 to Rota so it could improve its chances in the charter flight business.

"MVA has been working with the Rota Mayor's Office and the Legislature on possible charter flights direct to

Rota," said MVA managing director Chris Concepcion. "We would like to make these flights successful if it's going to happen this year."

Concepcion said the money will be used to promote the flights and develop the destination.

"Of course nothing is confirmed yet but we kind of need to reserve the funds.... Gov.

[Ralph DLG] Torres' message is to encourage MVA to continue to use funds to promote travel to Tinian and Rota. This is also the language that the Legislature is using to ask," Concepcion said.

"The \$250,000 allotted budget will not go directly to the mayor of Rota. It will be MVA funding to use to support programs either through incentives or direct promotions in China, Japan, and

Korea," he added.

MVA board member Chris Nelson suggested that MVA study and evaluate the charter flight program to see whether it makes sense in just pushing the money over.

"MVA is working with the Century Tours group, who is the first one to express interest. We will definitely study and see what we can work out with them under our MVA China of-

fice," Concepcion said.

MVA board chair Gloria Cavanagh said that Rota currently does not have a representative on the MVA.

"And if they did I'm sure they would basically state that they need help as far as their economy is concerned. This is a chance for Rota, that Century Tours has been doing a lot of work there over the last year to try to promote and establish eco-

tourism and bring some sort of tourism back to Rota," she said.

Concepcion said that MVA will wait until they get a plan about the charter program.

"We will have the funds set aside and we will wait for the marketing plans that they will provide through our China office. We will give it to the board for review and have that approved when the time is ready," he added.



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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-18-009

ALTERNATIVE POTABLE DRINKING WATER DISINFECTION SYSTEM INSTALLATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Alternative Potable Drinking Water Disinfection System Installation Project in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

General Description: This work consists of installation of alternative potable drinking water disinfection systems at five (5) potable drinking water disinfection points in the CNMI, one (1) on the island of Rota, one (1) on the island of Tinian, and three (3) on the island of Saipan. These systems will be evaluated as part of an expanded, one-year pilot-study of alternatives to chlorine gas disinfection. The contractor will be responsible for installation of the automated disinfection systems as well as provision of disinfectant products and any other necessary consumables during the one-year contract period.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-18-009, Alternative Potable Drinking Water Disinfection System Installation"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **February 6, 2018 at 10:00 AM (CHST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (CHST) on January 22, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Job Vacancy Announcements
YANO Enterprises, Inc. dba: Kinpachi Restaurant

Assistant Manager (1): Be able to assist the general manager in the supervision of business establishment to ensure the restaurant & stores efficiency & profitable operations; work closely with the personnel in preparation & processing of reservations, greets & answers customers inquiry, patrons complaints & resolve problems. Prepare advertising campaigns of the restaurant & stores to attract customers. Assist in doing daily inventory of foods, merchandise and assets of the business. Duties include but are not limited to delegating authority & assigning responsibilities, reviewing financial transactions & monitoring budget limitations, & be able to present written & oral reports on the company's financial & operational status. Must have Japanese oral skills & knowledge of Japanese food products.

Restaurant Supervisor (2): Must be qualified in restaurant operations, customer service, menu planning, & reservation operations. Must be responsible for the supervision of staff as to dining areas cleanliness in appearance & outside grounds. Ensure any customers issues are addressed immediately and resolved in a manner which exceeds the customer's expectation. Also need to have basic Japanese oral skills. Must have an extensive knowledge of Japanese food products & be able to make orders & preparations.

Accountant (1): Must be efficient in handling financial records, statements, & reports. Have knowledge on all Taxes computation & filing. Must be able to budget & estimate purchasing costs & requisitions of merchandise necessary in the company.

Restaurant Waitress (5): Greeting Customers. Must be able to speak basic Japanese & efficient English & have a friendly & outgoing personality. Should be knowledgeable of the restaurant dishes, familiar with the entire menu the establishment offers. Can introduce & recommend daily specials as well as the restaurant's regular menu items. Continued services after the meal have been served and accept payments & other duties related.

Cook (6): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

General Maintenance (3): Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and flexible in work hours. Duties may involve skills in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, painting, landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Can typically perform variety of task such as sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and installing , repairing buildings, floors or stairs.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including weekends and night time.

Applicants of all positions listed above **except Restaurant Waitress (3 months work experience)** are required to have a minimum of 2 - 4 year experience. Deadline to submit application will be on Monday, January 29, 2018 at 5:00pm.

Application by phone call will not be accepted.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered.
Interested applicants must apply in person; applications can be picked up at
MISA Building Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

Kaae wins Guam magazine's exec plum

TUMON, Guam—Leonard K. Kaae Sr. was named the 2017 *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year at a gala last night at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

Kaae, 66, is senior vice president and general manager at Black Construction Corp. He also heads Black Micro Corp., E.E. Black Limited (Philippines) and Black Construction/Mace International Joint Venture, Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory.

Kaae secured his first job with a local construction firm in 1971. By 1978, Kaae ventured from Hawaii to the U.S. mainland and the United Arab Emirates. It was then that he was appointed to E.E. Black as project manager in Hawaii.

His career with the Black Group of Companies has spanned almost 40 years, taking Kaae throughout the Pacific Rim, including Hawaii, Guam, Micronesia and the Philippines. He has now resided in Guam since 1985.

Kaae leads a team of 1,259 employees on any number of million-dollar projects at a time. Recent region-wide and award-winning projects include those at the Chuuk International Airport, the Guam hotel Tsubaki, the closure of Saipan's Puerto Rico Dump and Saipan Comfort Homes and the Matson Navigation Corp. Inc. new headquarters.

Through Kaae's management, Black was awarded the national Associated Builders

and Contractors prestigious Eagle Award three times—the only company from the Micronesian region to do so. Black has 15 times been named the Guam Contractors Association Contractor of the Year, won numerous Excellence in Construction and other special awards from the association, been recognized with safety awards for its work for the U.S. military in Guam and elsewhere, secured Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, construction awards and received the 2006 U.S. Small Business Administration's Dwight D. Eisenhower Award for Excellence in construction.

Kaae serves under Black as a member of the Guam Contractors Association, Guam Trades Academy and Society of American Military Engineers, and is individually a part of the Community Assisted Policing Effort, FBI Citizens Academy, Guam Chamber of Commerce and USO Advisory Council, as well as off-island organizations of the Associated Building Contractors, American Concrete Institute and American Concrete Paving Association.

Kaae is featured in a portrait on the cover of the *Guam Business* magazine's January-February issue, which was released at the gala.

Other executives who vied for the honor were William D. Beery, vice president and general manager, Tutujan Hill Group Ltd.; Sanjay R. Dewan,

president, Dewan Enterprises Inc., which does business as Port of Mocha Coffee House; Christopher K. Felix, president and principal broker, Century 21 Realty Management Co. Inc.; Siska S. Hutapea, president, Cornerstone Valuation Guam Inc.; James I. Oehlerking, CEO, Pacific Telecom Inc., which does business as IT&E; Annette T. Santos, dean of the School of Business and Public Administration, University of Guam; Steven M. Solberg, general manager, Outrigger Guam Beach Resort; and Keith J. Stewart, president, Pacific Rim Group of Companies, and managing member, Isa Villas Partners LLC.

Past Executive of the Year recipients include Robert H. Jones of Triple J Enterprises (1983); Marian Aldan-Pierce of DFS Saipan (2000); Juan T. Guerrero of Herman's Modern Bakery Inc. (2003); David M. Sablan of Century Group of Companies (2005); Jerry Tan of TanHoldings Inc. (2009); Lourdes A. "Lou" Leon Guerrero of Bank of Guam (2010); George Chiu of TanHoldings (2013); Norman T. Tenorio of Joeten Enterprises Inc. and Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc. (2014); Jeffrey B. Jones of Triple J Enterprises (2015); and Jose C. "Joe" Ayuyu of McDonald's of Guam and Saipan, RJ Corp. and RJ Guam LLC (2016).

The gala was a fundraising event for the Guam Chapter of the American Red Cross. **(PR)**

LTA to offer bookkeeping course

The Latte Training Academy will be offering a bookkeeping course that will prepare participants to test for the National Bookkeepers Association certification. The course will be offered every Saturday beginning Jan. 27, 2018, from 9am to noon for a period of 14 weeks at the Latte Training Academy site located on the third floor of the Marianas Business Plaza.

The course is designed for

participants who have a fundamental working knowledge of bookkeeping concepts. Participants will explore a variety of bookkeeping topics in preparation for the certification including, utilization of T-accounts, worksheet adjustments, general ledgers and a host of other concepts.

Ideal candidates include those who are seeking to advance within their current or

ganization and those who wish to demonstrate their mastery of bookkeeping to potential employers. All eligible U.S. workers who are interested in participating will have no out-of-pocket expense to attend the course.

Space is limited and interested parties are encouraged to visit www.lattetrainingacademy.com to register for the course. **(PR)**



Delta Trading Co., Ltd dba H-MART invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:
Applications for Employment are available at the Front

Accountant (1)

- 1) At least
 - Bachelor's Degree in finance, accounting, economics or
 - GED with previous work experience in accounting
 - 2) Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.
 - 3) Preferably good skills and understanding in using Microsoft Office products.
- *Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.*

Interested applicants should apply in person at Delta Trading Co., Ltd. Dba H-MART located behind of DPA CAR MART, Alu Drive, Beach Road, San Antonio and submit your resume.

For more information, you may contact Delta Trading Co., Ltd.
dba H-MART Office at (670) 235-1337/4

Casting call for FOA's *Into the Woods*

The Friends of the Arts' last play of the season is coming up, the James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim Broadway

musical, *Into the Woods*.

Here is your chance to be on the stage as part of this production. All actors or aspiring

actors in the community are invited to audition for a role.

The award-winning *Into the Woods* will be directed by Har-

old Easton, assisted by Marilou Conner, with Katie Hoyt as the musical director for this Friends of the Arts production. It will be performed on April 26, 27 and 28.

Into the Woods debuted

in San Diego at the Old Globe Theatre in 1986 and premiered on Broadway on Nov. 5, 1987, where it won several Tony awards.

The plot stems from several Brothers Grimm and Charles Perrault fairy tales, with characters taken from *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Rapunzel*, and *Cinderella*.

The story follows a childless baker and his wife in their quest to begin a family by finding a red cape, a white cow, corn-yellow hair and a magic slipper to get a wicked witch to remove a curse she has placed on them.

Auditions will take place on Jan. 19 from 6pm to 8pm;

and on Jan. 20 and 21 from 3pm to 5pm, at the Dolphin Theater, Building T, at Marianas High School.

The play has five male parts, ages 18 to 65-plus, and 10 female parts, ages 15 to 65-plus. Come to the auditions and try out. This is a musical, so be prepared to both sing and read as part of the audition.

If you have never been in a Friends of the Art's play, that's great! Come in and make this your first. Previous FOA cast members are also invited.

Interested individuals of all ages are encouraged to come and audition. You may also contact Frank Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com or Easton at eastonaa@hotmail.com. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Military training at Warning Area 517, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 during the following dates and times:

■ Jan. 16, from 12:30pm to 9pm

■ Jan. 17, from 2pm to 6pm

The military will also conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the

■ Jan. 16 and 17, from 10am to 9pm

■ Jan. 18, from 12:30pm to 9pm

■ Jan. 19, from 11am to 3pm

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use. W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. (PR)

CHamoru commission meetings

The Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'ná'guen i Hestoria yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Tãno' (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold a special meeting on Monday, Jan. 22, 2018, and its regular monthly meeting on Monday, Feb. 5, 2018. Both meetings will take place at the Fasilidát Edukasionát CHamoru, Guma' Faninadahen Kosas Guahán Sinadót Antonio M. Palomo, board conference room in Hagåtña, Guahán, from 2pm to 4pm. The agenda items include approval of minutes and prioritize and establish deadlines on the commission's strategic and implementation plan or Maga' Plánu 2018 activities. For further information call chair Hope Alvarez Cristobal at 483-0097 or secretary Rosa Salas Palomo at 727-5522. (PR)

Military suspends RUTEX training; endangered species found

ASAN, Guam—Joint Region Marianas suspended the Real-

istic Urban Training Exercise event at Tanguisson after being notified that a native endangered species was in the area planned for the upcoming exercise.

The RUTEX training will continue as planned but specific training originally planned for the Tanguisson area will be relocated.

"With the exercise scheduled to start in that area in the next few days there was not sufficient time to ensure our activities would not disturb the local endangered species," said Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, commander, Joint Region Marianas. "While the training is very important, it was determined that if time did not allow for proper mitigation that relocating the training was the best option." (PR)

Underwater Navy training in Piti

ASAN, Guam—U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 will conduct underwater detonation training at the Piti Floating Mine Neutralization Site on Jan. 17, from 8am to 4pm.

EODMU-5 will detonate one 1.25-lb explosive at the

designated deep water UNDET location, approximately one mile north of Cabras Island, one to two feet below the water's surface.

For the safety of personnel and marine life, the area will be visually cleared by divers and by lookouts on the surface before, during and after the exercise. All activity will cease temporarily if a person or marine life is seen in the area. (PR)

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Marianas Eye Institute is very fortunate to have our outstanding optometric physician, Dr. Mark D. Robertson, on staff. From simple eye problems, to the most complex, Dr. Robertson and Dr. Williams are here to help you.

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To download application:
<http://www.grmc.gu/careers>
(click on how to apply tab)



671-645-5500 | www.grmc.gu

Marianas gets Best Island Travel Destination award



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Marianas was named the Best Island Travel Destination on Dec. 26, 2017, by the organizing committee of the 4th Shenzhen International Tourism Expo in China.

Adding to its growing list of international accolades founded on a rebounded tourism economy, the Marianas has been named Best Island Travel Destination by the organizing committee of the 4th

Shenzhen International Tourism Expo.

The award was made on Dec. 26, 2017, during the three-day exhibition, which attracted over 426 exhibitors from more than 40 countries and regions,

including Thailand, Poland, Korea, Dominica, and Peru.

The exhibition also drew 85,657 expo visitors include trade buyers, other trade representatives, and consumers.

"We are extremely grateful to the 4th Shenzhen International Tourism Expo for selecting the Marianas to receive

this award, which tells us we are on the right track as far as meeting the expectations of our visitors and giving them a memorable experience in our islands," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, who attended the expo. "Ensuring the continua-

tion of that quality experience [on] Saipan, Tinian, and Rota remains our goal through destination enhancement projects, exciting signature events, and support to our hospitality workforce, which is the backbone of the industry. This is an award we can all take pride in."

Nearly 230,000 mainland

Chinese tourists visited the Marianas last fiscal year, accounting for 35 percent of total visitor arrivals. Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Hong Kong have non-stop flights to Saipan, while nearly 20 cities across the country have opened transit flights to the destination. (MVA)

American Samoa gets \$9.6M infra funding

WASHINGTON—Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Doug Domenech announced Friday the release of more than \$9.6 million in grant funding to American Samoa through the Office of Insular Affairs' capital improvement project program for fiscal year 2017.

"We are happy to support Gov. Lolo in his efforts to strengthen infrastructure in American Samoa through projects at the LBJ hospital, two elementary schools, and the ports," said Assistant Secretary Domenech. "New construction and deferred maintenance are among Secretary of the Interior Zinke's priorities in infrastructure modernization. Such priorities are as important to the territories as they are to the mainland."

The funding goes to: g American Samoa Shipyard Services Authority (3,000-ton slipway): \$1,000,000 is awarded for continuation of the Slipway Project of which ASSSA was previously awarded \$940,000 of CIP funding. The slipway is operating at a less-than-optimal level, down to 50 percent from 100%, forcing boat own-

ers and commercial vessels to travel to other destinations for services. Funding will include removal of deteriorated components, procurement of materials and supplies, and testing.

g Department of Port Administration (Faleasao wharf dredging): \$1,000,000 for dredging of the Faleasao Harbor, one of two harbors, on the island of Ta'u. Each harbor operates half of the year, depending on tides and the season. Because of the limited air travel to the islands of Manua, these harbors are critical to the transportation and passage of people and cargo. Dredging of Faleasao will ensure continued safe passage of the two vessels that operate between the capital of Tutuila and the Manu'a islands.

■ Department of Education (two-story building for Manulele): \$1,000,000 to construct a new two-story building for Manulele Elementary School. The building will consist of six classrooms. Site improvements will also include landscaping, drainage, and ADA access.

■ Department of Education (two-story building and gymnasium for Matafao):

\$1,700,000 for a new two-story building and gymnasium for Matafao Elementary School. The project will include a new building consisting of six classrooms, landscaping, drainage, ADA access, and installation of a pre-fabricated metal gymnasium.

■ Department of Public Works (Insular ABCs Initiative): \$1,000,000 in support of the Assessment of Buildings and Classrooms, also called Insular ABCs Initiative, which provides technical assistance and an ABC Management Maintenance Team to work closely with the Department of Public Works.

■ LBJ Tropical Medical Center (labor, delivery, and operating room renovation): \$1,000,000 to design and renovate the existing labor delivery room, and nursery and operating suite. The new facility will satisfy health and safety deficiencies identified by Medicare-Medicaid surveyors. Construction and renovation projects for the hospital are projected to be ongoing in several phases through 2020.

■ Department of Youth and Women's Affairs (Tafuna

Youth Center): \$1,113,000 to construct the Tafuna Youth Center, mirroring services provided at the Pago Pago Youth Center. The project will be a prefabricated building with designated rooms/areas conducive to the recreational activities available to the public. In addition to the indoor basketball/volleyball court, the facility includes a kitchen area, computer laboratory, sewing room, weight room, stage area, restrooms and office areas. Furniture and equipment will be acquired to for the new facility.

■ American Samoa Legislative Branch (new fono or legislative building): \$1,800,000 for a new building at the current site in Fagatogo, American Samoa. The proposed project will include demolition of the existing building, construction of a new two-story building adequate for Senate and House offices, respective foyers, conference rooms, and restroom facilities. Site improvements include landscaping, drainage, ADA accessibility and parking. The raised building will provide parking underneath the structure and mitigate flood hazards. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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INVITATION FOR BID
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)
BID SUBMISSION DATE: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 • TIME: 10:00 AM
NMHC IFB 2018-001
Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Tinian (20 units)
 Proposal packets will be available on **January 02, 2018**, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or the Tinian Field Office in San Jose, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.
The provisions of the CNMI Procurement regulations, NMHC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.
 A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on January 24, 2018, at the NMHC Tinian Field Office, San Jose, Tinian.
 For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Acting Office Manager, at (670)234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.
 /s/ Ignacio L. Perez, Chairman, NMHC Board of Directors /s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director, Division of Procurement & Supply

NMTI

Invitation to Bid for passenger vans


Northern Marianas Trades Institute is inviting bids for 3 (three) 15-Passenger Vans.

MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS (equal or better):
 Engine Size: 4 or 6 Cylinder; Transmission: Automatic; Model: 2016-18 (new); Medium to High Roof; Color: White Preferred; Air-conditioning; Manual Door Locks; Manual Windows; Standard Rust Proofing/Undercoating (Interior & Exterior); Safety Inspection and Registration; Full Tank of Gas; Warranty: 36 month/36,000 miles comprehensive Coverage; 5 year/60,000 miles power train and engine Coverage plus 5 year Body Panel Corrosion Performance Warranty.


DEADLINE FOR BID: February 14, 4:30pm

For a full Bid Package email Ross Manglona
 ross.nmticmi@gmail.com
 or call (670) 322-6684

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute admits students of any race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the institute. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarships and loan programs, and other institute-administered programs.



Board of Trustees
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
 1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950




Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the CEO's Conference Room 3 located at the Administrative Offices (new wing).

AGENDA

- Call to Order
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
Adoption of November 16, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Public Comments
- Reports
 - Management & Operation
 - Financial Statement
 - CHCC Budget
 - Proposed 2019 Budget Proposal
 - 2017 Annual Budget Report
 - Malpractice Insurance
 - CMS & ECRI
- New Business
 - Approval of Medical Staff By-Laws
 - Contract Spreadsheet for BOT which includes "scope of work"
- Announcements
- Adjournment

P.O. Box 500409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
 Telephone: (670) 236-8201/2 Fax: (670) 233-8756



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

MVA-RFP-18-2008

**For: HAPPY CHILDREN IN PARADISE CAMPAIGN
20th ANNIVERSARY SAIPAN-DA BACKPACKS**

Submission /Closing Date: **January 22, 2018** Time: **3:00 p.m.**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
 Procurement Office
 San Jose Professional Building
 Beach Rd., San Jose
 P.O. Box 500861
 Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **December 18, 2017, at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier services by January 22, 2018, and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the Commonwealth must notify the MVA/ Ms. Brenda Repeki in writing of their intent to submit a proposal in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. Participants outside the **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** must submit a **Notice of Intent** by any mode of written communication including facsimile at +1-670-664-3237 or email to brepeki@mymarianas.com, and must be received by 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on **January 22, 2018**.

All questions regarding this RFP must be sent to Ms. Brenda Repeki at brepeki@mymarianas.com or faxed to +1-670-664-3237, **no later than 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on January 5, 2018**.

/s/ Christopher J. Nelson /s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
 Acting Chairperson, Board of Directors Managing Director

Marianas daughter now a colonel

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) helped pin the insignia on Esther Camacho Sablan, who had just been promoted to full colonel in the Air National Guard at a family ceremony on Thursday.

Delegate Sablan believes that Col. Sablan is the first Northern Marianas female to achieve this high rank in the U.S. military, which requires congressional approval.

"She is an inspiration to us all, especially to girls and younger women setting their goals in life," said Sablan in his weekly newsletter, e-kilili.

First commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at Massachusetts Institute of



Technology, Col. Sablan received both her bachelor and master's degrees in aeronautics and astronautics there.

She has served on multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan as a combat search and rescue helicopter pilot and, along the way, collected two more master's degrees.

Today, Col. Sablan is at Joint Base Andrews outside Washington, serving as chief of the Force Planning and Strategic Basing Division.

"Congratulations, Col. Sablan. I look forward to seeing you when you are next promoted," added the delegate. (PR)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), left, helps pin the rank of colonel on newly-promoted Esther Camacho Sablan, center, of the Air National Guard. At right is Col. Sablan's mother, Rita Sablan Dutton.

Kilili lays out goals for 2018

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has laid out his legislative goals for the second session of the 115th U.S. Congress.

In a video message to constituents Friday, Sablan detailed the five issues of most importance in 2018.

"Everyone is concerned about the CW program," Sablan said, "especially after the Trump administration cut the CW cap to get ready for the end of the program in 2019.

"I know we will still need foreign workers after 2019. So I have been working, since last July, with Republicans and Democrats in the House and the Senate on legislation that will mean more of our own people have jobs in our economy with enough foreign workers to fill in the gaps."

Sablan said the working group is close to the bipartisan agreement needed to get the legislation enacted this year.

Also on the agenda are two major sources of funding that soon expire, E-NAP, which made more Marianas families eligible for food stamps and raised their monthly benefits, and Obamacare Medicaid money, \$109 million that has helped keep the Commonwealth hospital open.

"For E-NAP I got \$32.5 million in the last farm bill," Sablan said. "Now the once-every-five years Farm Bill is up again. My goal is to add another \$42.5 million to keep E-NAP going.

"Also, Obamacare Medicaid funding for all five insular areas runs out in 2019. With disaster assistance for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands on the legislative agenda right now, this could be an opportunity. If more Medicaid funds are added for those two islands

to help with recovery, then the Marianas, Guam, and American Samoa could also benefit."

Sablan added the Veterans' Affairs Committee to his House responsibilities in 2017. "I plan to keep using my new position to improve life for Marianas veterans," he promised. "My main goal is to have a [Veterans Affairs]-staffed medical clinic in the Marianas. But there are smaller steps we can take, too. Being on the Veterans Committee makes my voice that much louder, when I talk about what Marianas vets need."

Sablan has already received a commitment from the chairman of Veterans Affairs, Dr. Phil Roe (R-Tennessee), to

hold a hearing on the needs of Pacific area veterans this year.

Last on Sablan's legislative list for 2018 was federal grant funds. "The Commonwealth gets over \$100 million annually in federal grants and Congress makes the decisions about which programs get funded and how much.

"Every member of Congress has a say in those decisions—even delegates. And we spend a lot of time every year making sure the programs of most importance to the Marianas continue to get funded. We will be working just as hard this year for those grant funds that so many Commonwealth agencies depend on to operate." (PR)

ATTENTION Government Employees & Retirees!

The Island Smiles Dental Plan now available via your allotment

- **Low Cost:** \$5.00 (Individual Plan) \$6.00 (Two-Party Plan) or \$7.00 (Family Plan) per allotment. Least expensive dental plan in the CNMI
- Members receive at LEAST 20%-50% discounts on all dental procedures. No exceptions!
- **Plan Provider:** Paradise Dental Center. State-of-the art, full service General and Cosmetic dental clinic. Newest dental clinic and most experienced dentist in the CNMI. Really nice people!



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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>



NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2018

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an **estimated** \$1,264,412.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$902,206.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$293,829.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$68,377.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2018.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning January 03, 2018.

You may also obtain the application online at www.nmhc.gov.net in the section titled "Public Notice/Announcement" subsection "Community Planning Development"

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by **April 06, 2018, no later than 4:30 p.m.** Applications submitted after April 06, 2018, will not be accepted.

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

February 07, 2018, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Saipan
February 08, 2018, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Tinian
February 09, 2018, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Rota

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the Rota Mayor's Office Conference Room in Tatachog.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

Walls don't work

By **DAN K. THOMASSON**
Tribune News Service*Dan Thomasson is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service and a former vice president of Scripps Howard Newspapers. Readers may send him email at: thomasson-dan@aol.com.*

WASHINGTON—Building walls to keep your neighbor out or you in is not a viable solution to anything in the modern world. If the Berlin Wall taught us anything, that was it. It is just a plain and simple stupid idea and an enormously expensive one.

How costly?

Donald Trump now says it is an \$18 billion project. But not long ago his estimate was \$4 billion. And it is probably safe to say that will become substantially more if the barrier gets approved and goes forward. By the way, we're not talking about an end project, only 350 miles or so to hook into an already completed section.

This isn't the Great Wall of China, which has strong architectural value, just big slabs of steel reinforced concrete set on edge at least as presented by the backers. Wonderful!

Just as dumb is the idea of trading the futures of young aliens from the south who were brought here without a say in the matter and would be sent back to lands they now consider foreign and often hostile. So what if many of these men and women called "dreamers," have much to offer the United States? Some would advocate we would at least get benefit out of the wall. What? An eyesore and the constant reminder of tyranny it brings with it (most experts don't believe it will be effective). It simply goes against the American culture.

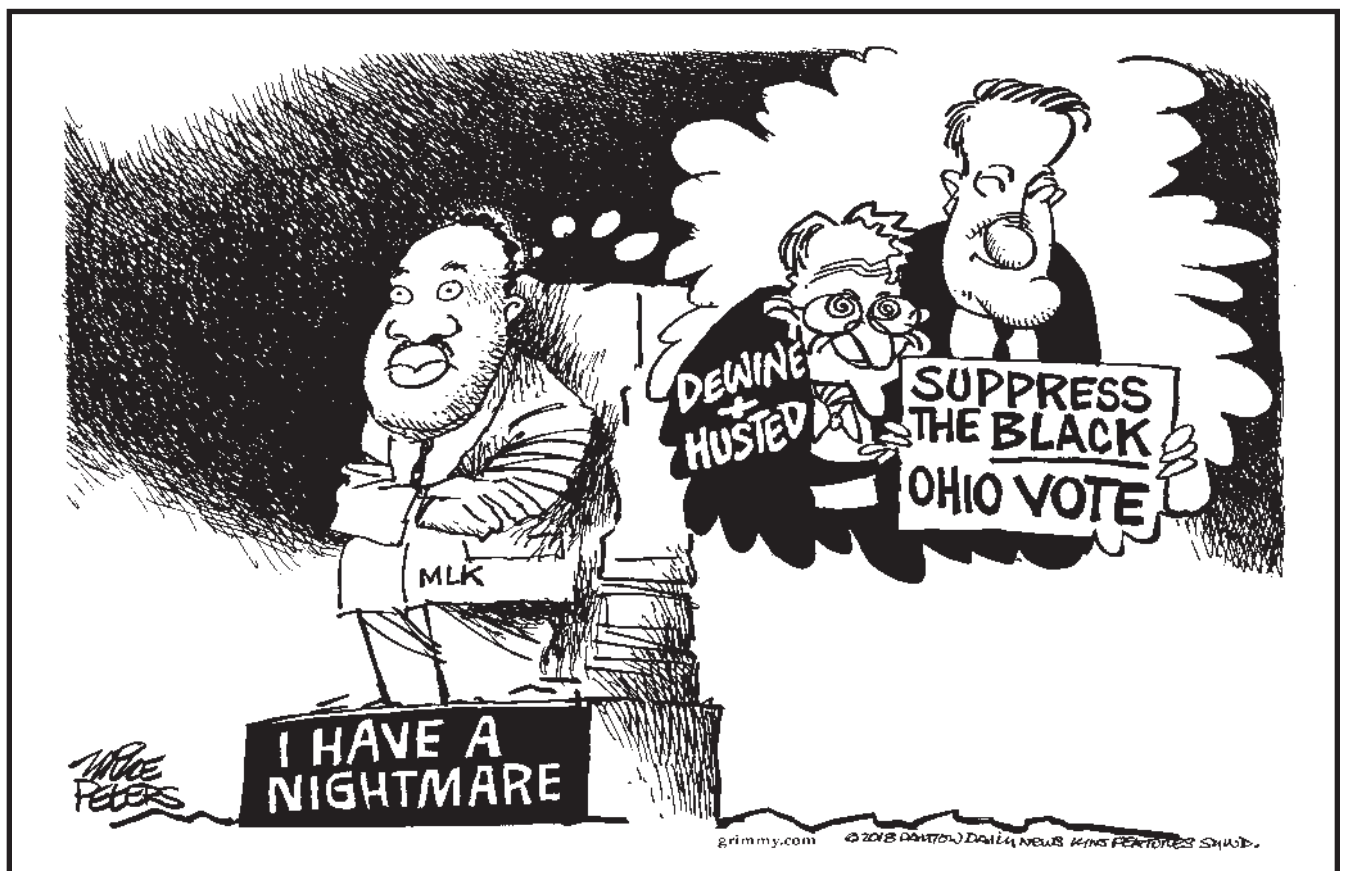
But the wall is the price Trump wants to charge for working out an arrangement to granting the dreamer's permanence. He has avowed that this symbol of utmost security must go forward. After all, didn't he promise it to his backers during the campaign ...you know all those American voters who complain they are losing jobs they really don't want anyway. He did and it was one of his most consistent selling points to voters who were sons and daughters of immigrants themselves.

There are far cheaper ways of tightening border security that would be far less debilitating to the American image as we like to portray it around the world. Some of them don't even include deportation but a way of providing opportunities for those who have shown themselves to be good, taxpaying workers despite lacking documentation. Many of these probably will be employed in building the wall if it happens.

There is no certainty that Trump and his minions in Congress will be able to pull off the reforms (make that restrictions) quickly as they try to stare down possible, sizable losses in this year's midterm elections. Clearly, the recent White House overtures for some sort of accommodation on immigration stem from this concern and the need to reach it before lines harden as campaigning begins in earnest.

With a number of key Republicans announcing they won't run again, GOP leaders express mounting anxiety that their majorities in both houses of the legislature might be slipping away. Rep Darrell Issa (R-Ca), one of the latest to abandon his seat this fall, put it succinctly when he said that while he needed to spend more time on his family and personal business, one couldn't ignore the political realities of the situation. He and other California Repub-

See WALLS on Next Page



On MLK Day, acknowledge the past to improve US future

By **JOHN B. KING JR.**
THE BALTIMORE SUN

To truly honor Martin Luther King's legacy, it is important for us not only to celebrate the progress that the civil rights movement made possible but also to grapple with the full truth of our nation's history, to acknowledge the inequities with which our society still struggles and to recognize our individual responsibility for social change.

As I reflect on our continued march toward social justice, I'm reminded of one of the most moving experiences from my time as U.S. secretary of education. It was in St. Paul, Minn., visiting the J.J. Hill Montessori Magnet School—the public elementary school where Philando Castile worked and was beloved by children, teachers, staff and families.

I visited the school to mourn with the community after "Mr. Phil," as the kids called him, was killed in an interaction with police in Falcon Heights. Although the officer involved in Philando's death was not convicted of murder, there is no question that the killing of Philando Castile was completely unnecessary and horrifyingly unjust. That deaths like his keep happening without consequence is outrageous.

From my conversation at the school, it was clear that African-American and white members of the community had radically different experiences in life and in their relationships with police. A white female school staff member, for example, explained that she had never interacted with police until she began dating her husband—an African-American man—at which point she experienced frequent traffic stops.

The conversation was moving, candid and heart wrenching. Afterward, a white parent shared, "I need to change how I talk to my kids about race. Their understanding of the history of race in America has basically been 'things were bad, Martin Luther King came, and now everything is all better.' I need to explain to them how much more complicated things are."

Indeed, our past and our present are complicated, and it's critical for all of us to acknowledge this truth. To do so, we must confront the brutality of the institution of slavery and its defining role in America's social, economic, and political history.

We also must appreciate the rich legacy of African-American advocacy for full recognition of our humanity and resistance to racial oppression. This legacy was palpable when Frederick Douglass asked, "What, to the American slave, is your 4th of July?" and when Sojourner Truth challenged, "Ain't I a Woman?" and when King proclaimed, "I Have A Dream."

We must understand the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the U.S. Constitution, the history of Reconstruction after the Civil War and the backlash against social progress reflected in the Ku Klux Klan, Jim Crow laws and lynching.

To be sure, our ability as a nation to resolve contemporary debates about protesting police brutality, challenging unfair voting restrictions and removing Confederate statues from public squares all require knowing the history of race in America. Consider how our country's present-day struggles with racial inequities and institutionalized racism play out in education.

Data plainly show we have failed to live up to the promise of educational equity in *Brown v. Board of Education*. Too often African-American and Latino students receive less than their white peers: less access to quality preschool, less access to effective teachers, less access to advanced coursework, less access to school counselors and less access to resources they need to thrive.

Or consider that the African-American unemployment rate remains nearly twice that of white Americans and that Latinos face similar socioeconomic challenges—as well as new threats from the Trump administration. The reversal of protections via the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, hostility to immigrants and the grossly inadequate response to the hurricane damage in Puerto Rico are especially troubling.

And consider the 2015 report—"The Color of Wealth in Boston"—that found the median household net worth of African-American families in Boston is \$8 (not \$8,000 or even \$800, but \$8), while the median household net-worth of white families is more than \$247,000.

Certainly, individual choices play a part in people's life circumstances, but we must address fundamental structures of inequality. And, collectively, we can make better choices.

The inequities in our schools are a choice. Segregated housing is a choice. The policies of mass incarceration are a choice. Making it harder for people to exercise the right to vote is a choice.

When I think back on the conversation in St. Paul, I believe one of the most problematic results of the "it's-all-better-now" account of King's life and legacy is that such a worldview releases us from our moral responsibility to make social change.

I am convinced we will make better choices when we grapple with our history in all its complexity—the ugliness and the glory—and when we commit ourselves to increasing equity and opportunity for all.

As King implored in his final speech, "Let us rise up tonight with a greater readiness. Let us stand with a greater determination. And let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge to make America what it ought to be."

John B. King Jr. president and CEO of The Education Trust and a former U.S. Secretary of Education in the Obama administration. He wrote this for the Baltimore Sun. His email is John.King@edtrust.org; Twitter: @JohnBKing.

When the body breaks (even temporarily)

For the first time ever (in my 40-plus years of life), I found myself laid up in bed beyond the occasional 24-hour man-flu. An unlucky combination of an ear infection and a pig farming back injury essentially had me bedridden for nearly a full week in the last days of 2017, which left me disoriented and writhing in pain for what felt like an eternity.

It is possible, of course, that my personal threshold for pain is not as high as some and maybe a stronger man would have endured far better, but the point is that for me (in that week) life as I knew it was completely transformed. Even the simplest of tasks like rolling over in my bed became an excruciating exercise in willpower to make my body do what the brain was telling it not to do. And, let's just say that my nearly perfected routine of using the restroom and shower was not the neat, comforting affair I had come to know. I was on the verge of calling for help...to use the bathroom.

And then there was work including the work of my job, which for that time, I very simply could not perform. I missed a few critical meetings, the lawn didn't get cut, and my pigs got pretty hungry. It became painfully apparent how people (often through no fault of their own) can fall on hard times. For many of us, if we can't work, the paychecks will stop. Fortunately for me, there are good people in my life to fill the gaps such as they were and my job administers a fair and reasonable sick leave policy. No doubt I am one of the lucky ones.

To say I felt humbled and practically defeated would be an understatement (even after only a week), but it's been a week or so since I find myself nearly fully recovered and getting cockier by the minute, as if I could so easily forget that "but for the grace

of God (go I)."

I've watched far greater men than I go from solid, healthy bodies one day to needing a wheelchair the next or from near perfect speech one day to having to relearn their ABCs. And so, with each passing day spent in bed, a real fear descended over me like a dank, thick shadow of my deepest fears crawling to the surface: "What if I never recover from this...? How will I work? How will I feed my family or myself? Who will help me shower? What will I do with the rest of my life?"

A significant portion of my life to date has been dedicated to advocating for and championing the rights of people with disabilities and it has long been a familiar battle cry to remind people that disabilities do not discriminate on basis of age, gender, color, socio-economic status, etc. In an instant at any given point, even for the healthiest among us, the course of our lives can be significantly altered by the onset of a disability. I'm not proud of this, but even after all these years it took this very direct, isolated experience for me to better comprehend the full weight and meaning of this simple truth. So if there is a reason for everything, perhaps the reason I got taken down at the end of the year was three-fold as follows: (1) All of us need a healthy serving of humble-pie every now and again, (2) We could all stand to be a little more empathetic to people facing challenges unfamiliar to ourselves, and (3) Many of us would benefit greatly from a commitment to taking better care of our health (mind, body and soul).

This community (our island community) is no stranger to the realities and devastation many families have had to endure as a result of the sudden onset of life-altering disabilities. And no, not all disabilities are devastating, but the truth is that people

By **JIM RAYPHAND**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jim Rayphand is the executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.



with disabilities face a very real, unique set of societal challenges and remain among the most vulnerable to abuse, neglect, and discrimination. More often than not, a person who becomes disabled is ultimately left to his own devices when it comes down to it. There is no magic entitlement button or golden parachute beyond the very minimal forms of welfare assistance absent any personal wealth and other independent resources.

Advocates at the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. often tread a fine line between helping people and helping them to help themselves. We take the position (because we believe it to be correct) that all people (disability or otherwise) have an absolute right to be free from abuse, neglect, and discrimination. And we also take the position that people have a responsibility to themselves and to the community to be productive, contributing members of society.

Our role is to clear their paths of any unwanted, discriminatory barriers that may get in the way or simply, perhaps, to remind people (in this and every New Year) about the value of empathy and all resolutions that start with concern for others above self.

For more on the rights of persons with disabilities, please feel free to contact the NMPASI office at (670 235-7273/4 [tel] / 235-7275 [fax] or via www.nmpasi.org.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you, Dr. King

I want to thank Dr. King on this day that we remember him and his legacy of fighting for the civil rights of all people of color. Had it not been for him, America and even the world might still be a very bad place when it comes to race relationships. There is no doubt that he changed America and the world with the help of the thousands and even millions who were part of the civil rights movement, as the ideology of human rights was born out of the movement he started with Rosa Parks. There were also many who suffered and died before Dr. King who fought for equality and a fair shake in life but many of their names are lost to history. So I also say thank you to the many unknown and forgotten warriors for freedom and equality.

The CNMI was the last state-level government in America to officially recognize the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday and for that, I, along with many Americans, will be forever thankful to the CNMI government. While there have been memorial

services in the past to recognize this very special day, it seems times have changed and needs to be a reminded that not only did Dr. King help blacks but all people of color, as Chamorros and Carolinians would have gone to school with the rest of us black folks back during the days.

Dr. King's holiday is really about the Chamorros and Carolinians too. Just imagine if there had never been a Dr. King or civil rights movement—the local people may very well not be enjoying the sovereignty, equality and freedoms they enjoy today. This should be the one day that we can all look each other in the face and say i love you my brother & sister in the struggle for "injustices in America" and that we are proud and thankful for Dr. King and the ultimate sacrifice he made willingly for us all as he knew his days were numbered!

Being a young man in college and a member of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee, we were privileged to actually meet with Dr. King and gain some of

his personal wisdom and insight. I can remember his last speech, "The Promise Land," and I didn't understand it then but he was in tears as he finished and I didn't know why. It was only years later that I learned that he had been warned and his life threatened about helping the sanitation workers of Memphis, which was obviously on his mind when he prepared the speech that ended with "I may not get there with you but, one day, we will get to the Promised Land." Yes, Dr. King put his life on the line to help the garbage men of Memphis and, when the strike ended, they became the highest paid sanitation workers in the nation. I have tried to follow the teachings of my mentor, even though many don't want to accept it but you can't pick and choose who is equal in the CNMI. Happy MLK Day!

Ambrose M. Bennett

Kagman, Saipan

Connolly's Comic Cerebral Celebrations Concerning the Constative Complexity of Certain Commensal Considerations

Thanks to Sean Carroll for glimpses in *The Big Picture, on the Origins of Life, Meaning, and the Universe itself*.

Be here now stops at eternity
be prepared for the inevitable
death is not forgettable
Desire to live from here to eternity
the decision to breathe is also the decision to die
if we decide to stop breathing we head into eternity
Value beyond social media
because some care what matters
the universe is ours on silver platters
Go beyond the stop sign
to err is human that's what makes us us

might as well stay on the learning bus
Take care of hearing problems
listen to the speaker, coconut telegraph
or cell phone, we are not alone
Mr. and Mrs. Natural change directions
take that road untraveled, knitted care
gets unraveled, equality gavel to gavel
"Some folks this some folks that
digging the differences is where its at"
don't forget Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sprat
Being human beings we're thinking
cogito ergo sum, throw in the kitchen sink
our brain power can prevent the world from sinking
Change hats and prayer mats
life is funny life is strange, from Arctic desert

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.



to oven range, my tonic is diachronic
When fake news faces the mirror
reflections of democratic delusion, political collusions
gratitude for Chinese Taoist and Zen confusions

WALLS

From Page 10

licans had been designated among the Democrats' most targeted.

With the Hispanic American vote substantial and growing in red states, Republicans see their own political viability as seriously threatened. Latinos —not counting aliens—have become the nation's largest minority but still have responsibilities in their

homelands. That is particularly true among non-citizens who support parents still in places of their origin through jobs in the United States






The American workforce is chock-a-block with the non-documented, an enormous number of whom are doing jobs Americans disdain as evidenced by a visit to any construction site large or small. To disrupt this wholesale without provision of relief could mean a major blow to the economy down the road. The administration has announced it was targeting

7-Eleven stores for its use of aliens, among the largest of these actions in immigration history. The White House also said it would oppose a federal district court injunction holding off the dream act.

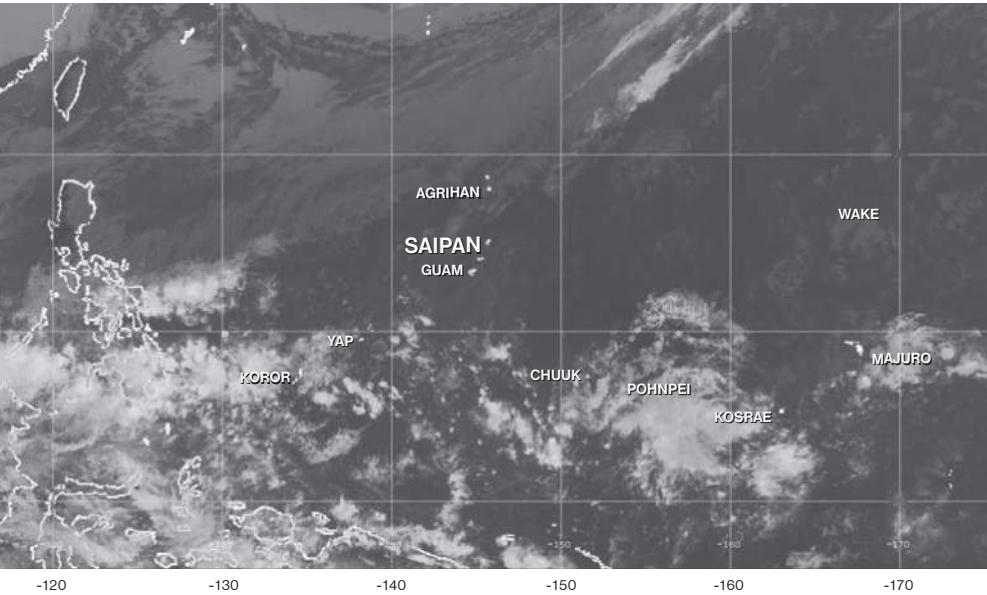
But it all may be academic given the most imprudent racist remarks I ever heard a president make disparaging Haiti, Guatemala and African nations. He called them "shitholes" saying America should be accepting more immigrants from Norway. Democrats were outraged and even his allies blanched.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Mostly sunny with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:46 AM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A fairly dry and quiet pattern prevails across the Marianas this morning and latest model guidance indicates this pattern will continue for at least the next week. Gentle to moderate trade winds today will increase to moderate to fresh tonight into Monday morning and continue through at least midweek. Current buoy readings show seas between 6 and 8 feet with a few peaks at Tanapag near 8.5 feet. Sea are expected to gradually build over the next couple of days and could reach 10 feet Monday through the end of the week. Both winds and seas could reach Small Craft Advisory levels as early as Monday morning.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▲ ▼ °F		
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	82° / 76°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	83° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	83° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE ▲ ▼ °F		
Auckland	Showers	73° / 66°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	41° / 19°
Hong Kong	Sunny	72° / 61°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82° / 72°
London	Rain	48° / 39°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	74° / 54°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	66° / 55°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	69° / 61°
New York	Rain	48° / 21°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	57° / 45°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	48° / 43°
Busan	Rain	55° / 46°
Rome	Showers	55° / 45°
Salem	Sunny	44° / 26°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	58° / 49°
Seoul	Rain	43° / 30°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	55° / 41°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	34° / 25°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
12:51 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.18
7:53 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.74
1:07 PM	LOW TIDE	1.18
5:58 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.83

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:46 AM	6:05 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:06 PM
Wednesday	6:46 AM	6:07 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:07 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:01 am	4:38 pm	-
Tuesday	5:49 am	5:26 pm	-
Wednesday	6:37 am	6:15 pm	-
Thursday	7:22 am	7:05 pm	-
Friday	8:06 am	7:54 pm	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)				HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1	JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4	JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN	UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
				UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

‘Marianagenic’ sites on Instagram

The Marianas Visitors Authority has launched a “Marianagenic” promotion on Instagram and other social media platforms in Japan to highlight picture-perfect scenes in the Marianas.

The MVA recently premiered the first 24 of an an-

anticipated 40-plus features from Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

Geo Graphic Inc. was in the Marianas on Oct. 13-19, 2017, to capture the sites for the MVA’s website in Japan, which receives 15,000 unique users each month.

At the same time, for the next three months Japanese travelers earn a chance to win a pair of airline tickets from Narita to Saipan by following the MVA’s Instagram or Twitter accounts or liking its Facebook page in Japan and post-

ing their favorite images of the Marianas with the hashtag #Marianagenic.

“‘Marianagenic’ is another great example of the innovative ideas we are pursuing to reach Japanese travelers in new ways and create a re-



The iconic Saipan sign is one of the locations in the Marianas highlighted in the Marianas Visitors Authority’s online “Marianagenic” promotion in Japan from December 2017 to March 2018.



Aqua Resort Club is one the locations on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota highlighted in the Marianas Visitors Authority’s online “Marianagenic” promotion in Japan from December 2017 to March 2018.

MVA

vived image of the Marianas in Japan,” said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. “Not only do we anticipate that these photogenic places will grow in popularity, but some travel agencies are working on optional tours around these sites, like a bucket list for photographs in the Marianas.”

The images are posted at japan.mymarianas.com/marianagenic/.

Highlighted sites on Rota are Sinapalu and Songsong, Swimming Hole, Teteto Beach, Japanese-era Sugar Mill, Rubin Dive Shop, and Coral Garden.

Sites on Tinian include Broadway, San Jose village, Taga Beach, Tachogna Beach, Carolinas Lookout, JC Café, Cyber Coffee Shop, Unai Chulu Beach, Mt. Lasso,

House of Taga, Khan’s Pizza House, Lucky Qiang, and U-save Market. Sites on Saipan include Wing Beach, Marianas Trekking, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Micro Beach, Saipan International Airport, Ladder Beach, Smiling Cove, Managaha, Old Man by the Sea, Sugar Dock, Mt. Carmel Cathedral, San Vicente, Sugar King Park, Garapan, I Love Saipan, Navy Hill, Capitol Hill, Mt. Tapochao, Obyan Beach, and Forbidden Island.

Hotels and other accommodations include Rota Resort & Country Club, Bay View Hotel, Valentino Hotel, Tinian Ocean View Hotel, Mariana Resort & Spa, Aqua Resort Club, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Grandvrio Resorrt, Saipan World Resort, Fiesta Resort & Spa, and Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort. (MVA)

MVA updates photo, video library

The Marianas Visitors Authority is updating its photographs and videos of the Marianas with the help of professional models and photographers, including former *National Geographic* photographer Jihwan Bae.

Bae, known in South Korea for his advertisement projects with brands including Samsung Electronics, LG Electronics, and Sony, led the group during their tour of Saipan, Rota, and Tinian in December 2017.

“The goal of this high-quality imagery content production project is to position the Marianas as the most ideal travel destination for Korean travelers,” said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. “Overall, the project crew expressed great satisfaction and appreciation for the opportu-



Tinian’s Blow Hole is on the numerous sites captured by the Marianas Visitors Authority in December 2017 for its updated photo and video library.

MVA

nity to capture the beautiful scenery of our islands.”

The project will also develop digital maps for recommended Instagrammable

locations. The photographer crew visited major attraction, including Grotto, Banzai Cliff, and Bird Island on Saipan; Broadway, Ushi Cross Point,

Blow Hole, and Taga Beach on Tinian; and Swimming Hole, Bird Sanctuary, As Matmos, Teteto Beach, and Song Song Village Lookout on Rota. The



Managaha is one of the numerous sites captured by the Marianas Visitors Authority in December 2017 for its updated photo and video library.

MVA

crew conducted stargazing and night scene photo shoots to capture the clarity of night skies of the Marianas, and restaurants and stores registered as MVA members were also included.

“It was great honor for the whole crew members to experience and capture the untouched yet the most pictur-

esque Marianas through their cameras,” said Bae. “We are all very grateful for everyone’s hospitality during our stay.”

The newly produced imagery contents will be used and shared with Korean travel trade partners, media and others. Pacific Palm Resort Saipan also supported the familiarization tour. (MVA)

Business

Cybersecurity firm: US Senate in Russian hackers' crosshairs

PARIS (AP)—The same Russian government-aligned hackers who penetrated the Democratic Party have spent the past few months laying the groundwork for an espionage campaign against the U.S. Senate, a cybersecurity firm said in a report Friday.

The revelation suggests the group often nicknamed Fancy Bear, whose hacking campaign scrambled the 2016 U.S. electoral contest, is still busy trying to gather the emails of America's political elite.

"They're still very active—in making preparations at least—to influence public opinion again," said Feike Hacquebord, a security researcher at Trend Micro Inc. who authored the report. "They are looking for information they might leak later."

The Senate Sergeant at Arms office, which is responsible for the upper house's security, declined to comment, but Nebraska Sen. Ben Sasse said it was time for U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions to return to Congress to say what action had been taken to help ensure lawmakers' digital safety.

"The Administration needs to take urgent action to ensure that our adversaries cannot undermine the framework of our political debates," he said in a statement.

Trend Micro based its report on the discovery of a clutch of



In this Jan. 3, 2018 photo, the Capitol is seen in Washington. Newly published research shows that the same Russian government-aligned hackers who penetrated the Democratic Party have spent the past six months laying the groundwork for an espionage campaign against an unknown number of U.S. Senate staffers, including Republicans.

suspicious-looking websites dressed up to look like the U.S. Senate's internal email system. The Tokyo-based firm then cross-referenced digital fingerprints associated with those sites to ones used almost exclusively by Fancy Bear, which it dubs "Pawn Storm."

Trend Micro previously drew international attention when it used an identical technique to uncover a set of decoy websites apparently set up to harvest emails from the French presidential candidate Em-

manuel Macron's campaign in April 2017. The sites' discovery was followed two months later by a still-unexplained publication of private emails from several Macron staffers in the final days of the race.

Hacquebord said the rogue Senate sites—which were set up in June and September of 2017—matched their French counterparts.

"That is exactly the way they attacked the Macron campaign in France," he said.

Attribution is extremely

tricky in the world of cybersecurity, where hackers routinely use misdirection and red herrings to fool their adversaries. But Trend Micro, which has followed Fancy Bear for years, said there could be no doubt.

"We are 100 percent sure that it can be attributed to the Pawn Storm group," said Rik Ferguson, one of the Hacquebord's colleagues.

Like many cybersecurity companies, Trend Micro refuses to speculate publicly on who is behind such groups, referring to Pawn Storm only as having "Russia-related interests." But the U.S. intelligence community alleges that Russia's military intelligence service pulls the hackers' strings and a months-long Associated Press investigation into the group, drawing on a vast da-

AP

tabase of targets supplied by the cybersecurity firm Secureworks, has determined that the group is closely attuned to the Kremlin's objectives.

If Fancy Bear has targeted the Senate over the past few months, it wouldn't be the first time. An AP analysis of Secureworks' list shows that several staffers there were targeted between 2015 and 2016.

Among them: Robert Zaratte, now the foreign policy adviser to Florida Sen. Marco Rubio; Josh Holmes, a former chief of staff to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell who now runs a Washington consultancy; and Jason Thielman, the chief of staff to Montana Sen. Steve Daines. A Congressional researcher specializing in national security issues was also targeted.

Fancy Bear's interests aren't limited to U.S. politics; the group also appears to have the Olympics in mind.

Trend Micro's report said the group had set up infrastructure aimed at collecting emails from a series of Olympic winter sports federations, including the International Ski Federation, the International Ice Hockey Federation, the International Bobsleigh & Skeleton Federation, the International Luge Federation and the International Biathlon Union.

Facebook edits feeds to bring less news, more sharing

NEW YORK (AP)—Facebook is changing what its users will see to highlight posts they are most likely to engage with and make time spent on social media more "meaningful."

By cutting back on items that Facebook users tend to passively consume, the change could hurt news organizations and other businesses that rely on Facebook to share their content.

The idea is to help users to connect with people they care about, not make them feel depressed and isolated.

"The research shows that when we use social media to connect with people we care about, it can be good for our well-being," Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg wrote in a post Thursday.

"We can feel more connected and less lonely, and that correlates with long term measures of happiness and health. On the other hand, passively reading articles or watching videos -- even if they're entertaining or informative -- may not be as good."

Shares of Facebook slid

more than 5 percent to \$177.31 in premarket trading Friday after the change was unveiled.

Under the revised regime, there will be fewer posts from brands, pages and media companies and more from people. There will be fewer videos, which Facebook considers "passive." People will likely spend less time on Facebook as a result, the company says.

That's because even if people read such content on Facebook, they don't necessarily comment or interact with it in other ways.

But Facebook gave scant details about how it would define what's "meaningful."

The changes could shrink the social media giant's role as a major news source for many people.

"It's in the same direction that Facebook has been pursuing for a while: offering a place for discussion among individuals, a community space, rather than being a news source," said Oh Se-uk, a senior researcher on digital news at the Korea Press Foundation.

"It wants people who

have been friends to become even closer, to have deeper discussions (on Facebook). Traffic to news media's websites via Facebook will likely fall," he said.

The move will not affect advertisements—users will continue to see the same ads they have before, "meaningful" or not. But businesses that use Facebook to connect with their customers without paying for ads will also feel the pain.

Facebook has long been criticized for creating "filter bubbles," the echo chambers of friends and like-minded people whose views are reinforced by their friends' posts on the platform.

The company says that's similar to how people make friends and interact with each other offline. Facebook says its research shows that users are exposed to more divergent views on its platform than they would be otherwise, but that's hard to verify independently since the company is cautious about providing data to outsiders.

Mudslide brings economic shock to area built on tourism

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP)—The California mudslide that killed at least 18 people is causing distress miles from where the torrent of muck and boulders stopped, as a local economy that thrives on tourism and the lure of sun-soaked beaches was left reeling.

On a postcard-perfect afternoon, the Santa Barbara Shellfish Company would normally be bustling with lunchtime diners downing fried calamari and lobster tacos, especially on the cusp of a holiday weekend.

"We would be smashing right now," said manager Sean Johnson, referring to a typical Friday crowd at the restaurant on the edge of Santa Barbara Harbor.

But with the 101 Freeway clogged by mud and debris, cutting off traffic from Southern California, "There is hardly anybody in here," Johnson lamented.

"The big hit," he said, "is people can't get up here from L.A."

As searchers continued to look for bodies in the thick mud and evacuations remained in effect, the economic

damage ranged up and down the coast, far from where the mudslide ravaged the celebrity getaway of Montecito.

In affluent Summerland, just east of where the mud flow cut a swath through homes and businesses alike, a liquor store with its door open was a lonely outpost. Restaurants and hotels were dark in Montecito, where 65 homes were destroyed, hundreds more damaged and power and water shut off.

The historic San Ysidro Ranch, where President John F. Kennedy and his wife honeymooned, was heavily damaged.

Santa Barbara is a tourist magnet, attracting visitors to its famous beaches and trendy restaurants. But on Friday there were plenty of seats at eateries, pedestrian traffic was unusually light and parking spaces were often empty.

Mark Schniepp, director of the California Economic Forecast, said the area is being shaken by a three-pronged problem: Tourists aren't coming in their usual numbers, residents have been forced to move out and thousands of workers can't

get to their jobs.

He said some 12,000 daily commuters drive into Santa Barbara from the south, a route now blocked. Those people aren't buying lunch or coffee, or filling up the gas tank on the way to work.

Residents are uprooted, the dollars they would pump into the economy gone with them. January is not high tourism season in Santa Barbara, but now-closed seaside hotels typically lure crowds throughout the year.

Making matters worse, the area recently witnessed a monster wildfire that torched homes and sent clouds of ash and smoke into communities. Meanwhile, beaches were closed to swimming, after health officials said mud and runoff from heavy rains contained unknown amounts of sewage and contaminants.

"The stigma that we have right now, it's flooded, it's burned, there is mud everywhere. That is not going to be helpful with tourists," Schniepp added.

The economy will eventually recover, starting when the freeway reopens, possibly as early as Monday.

Nation

A wave of panic rattles Hawaii after false missile alert

HONOLULU (AP)—The second recent blunder in Hawaii's planning for a possible North Korean nuclear attack left islanders shaken after an emergency alert warning of an imminent strike sounded on hundreds of thousands of cellphones.

For nearly 40 minutes people waited. Then came the second mobile alert: someone hit the wrong button, there was no missile.

Some people abandoned cars on the highway and others gathered in the interiors of their homes to wait for what seemed like the inevitable, a blast that would cause widespread death and destruction.

The message sent statewide just after 8 a.m. Saturday read: "BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT INBOUND TO HAWAII. SEEK IMMEDIATE SHELTER. THIS IS NOT A DRILL."

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency's administrator, Vern Miyagi, said he took responsibility for the mistake. He said officials would study the error to make sure it doesn't happen again.

The state adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Joe Logan, said a written report would be prepared. State lawmakers announced they would hold a hearing next Friday. And Federal Communi-

cations Commission Chairman Ajit Pai said on social media the panel would launch an investigation.

The backlash from lawmakers was swift.

Hawaii House Speaker Scott Saiki said the system Hawaii residents have been told to rely on failed miserably.

"Clearly, government agencies are not prepared and lack the capacity to deal with emergency situations," he said in a statement.

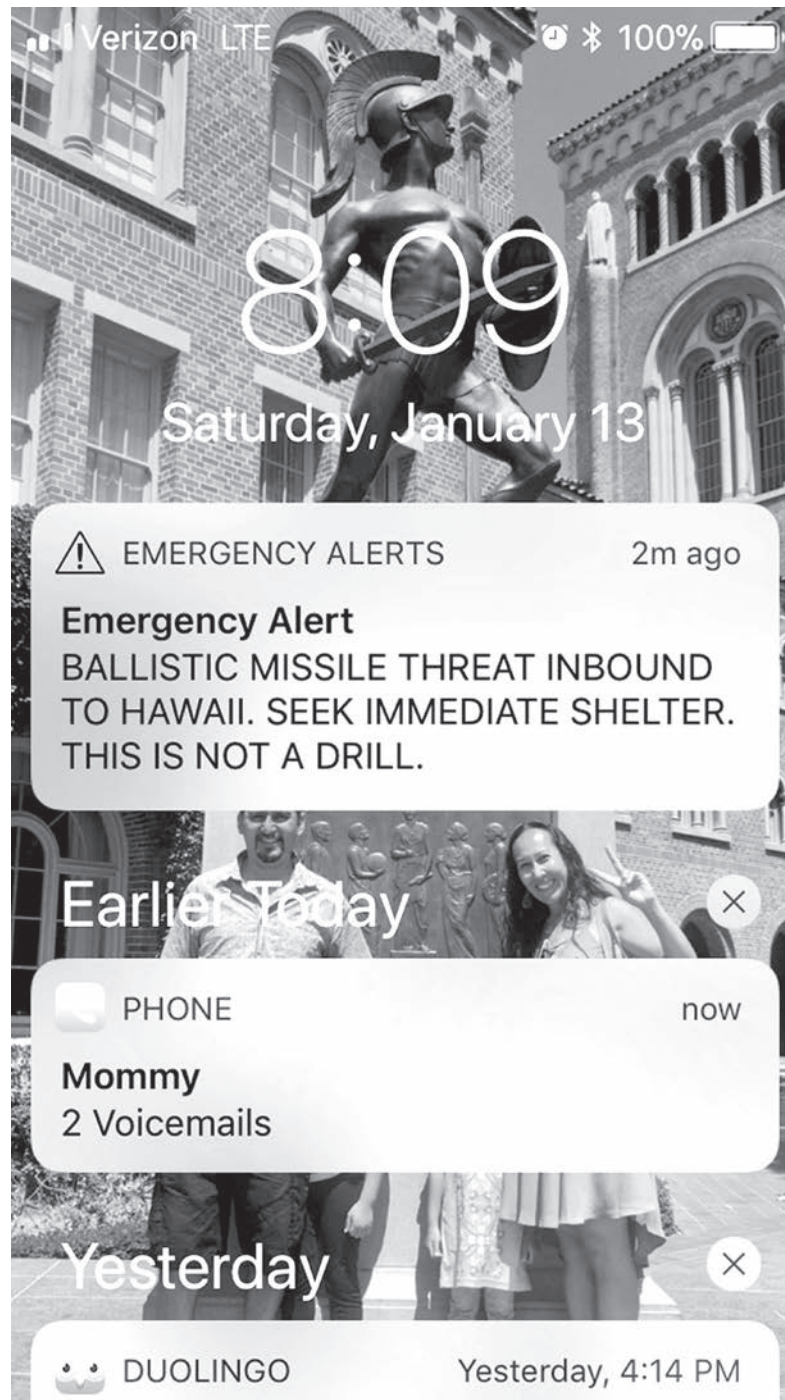
Hawaii U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz tweeted the false alarm was "totally inexcusable."

"There needs to be tough and quick accountability and a fixed process," he wrote.

"This false alert is detrimental to the integrity and trust of the emergency management system," said state Sen. Donna Mercado Kim.

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency tweeted there was no threat about 10 minutes after the initial alert, but that didn't reach people who aren't on the social media platform. A mobile alert informing of the false alarm didn't reach cellphones until about 40 minutes later.

Many people said they are resigned to the fact that there is little they can actually do if a missile was to be



This smartphone screen capture shows a false incoming ballistic missile emergency alert sent from the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency system on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018.

Racial firestorm surrounds Trump at MLK holiday

ATLANTA (AP)—The first Martin Luther King Jr. holiday of Donald Trump's presidency is taking place amid a racial firestorm of Trump's own making.

In the same week that he honored King by making a national park out of the ground where King was born and preached until his death, Trump denigrated practically the entire African diaspora, and left many Americans headed into the civil rights icon's birthday convinced that the leader of their country is a racist.

For African-Americans in particular, this latest insult from Trump felt like whiplash. Barely a year ago, America's first black president, Barack Obama, marked his final King Day in office with his usual community service; now, his successor is presiding over a racial backlash the country has hardly seen in more than a generation.

Trump has denied being racist, labeling himself the "least racist person there is" during his 2016 campaign.

Some of his actions leading up to this year's federal holiday honoring King's birth seemed to be an attempt to live up to that.

He began last week by designating the historic site around King's Atlanta birth home as a national park. By week's end, Trump was signing a King holiday proclamation with the martyred activist's nephew at his side.

But in between, the president sat in a White House meeting on immigration policy and denigrated much of the African diaspora as "shithole countries" while expressing a preference for immigrants from Norway, a majority white nation.

This is the type of thing, activists, religious leaders and scholars say, that puts Trump's presidency in direct conflict with the legacy of King, who was assassinated April 4, 1968 while trying to make America a more inclusive society.

King's daughter, the Rev. Bernice King, will be the keynote speaker at the commemorative service honoring

her father at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. As is the custom for most presidents, Trump is not expected to participate, but she does hope he will observe the holiday.

"This is what I would like President Trump to do: Don't let the King Holiday find you using your Twitter account in an inappropriate way," Bernice King told The Associated Press in an interview. "If he can dare to do that, I would be proud on that day that our president honored Dr. King by not doing things that are offensive."

Much of Trump's first year as president has been marked by racial controversy. Last February, Trump kicked off Black History Month by praising long-dead abolitionist Frederick Douglass in the present tense, as if Douglass were still alive. He referred to NFL players protesting systemic racism as "sons of bitches" and suggested they should be benched or fired for their refusal to stand during the national anthem.

Crews slowly making progress removing debris after mudslides

MONTECITO, Calif. (AP)—Recovery crews are slowly making progress digging away masses of mud, boulders and toppled trees in a California community that was ravaged by deadly mudslides, but officials said they've removed enough debris from creek canals to prevent another potential disaster when the next rainstorm hits.

Workers were using backhoes, jackhammers and chain saws to clear the debris in Montecito, nearly a week after a powerful storm sent flash floods cascading through mountain slopes that were burned bare by a huge wildfire in December. At least 19 people were killed and five others were reported missing.

In addition to trying to find those who are still missing after Tuesday morning's storm, crews have made it a top priority to clear out debris basins and creek canals before another rain storm. Long-range forecasts gave the crews about a week before the next chance of rain—and potential new mudslides—although the precipitation was expected to be disorganized and light. Another system was possible two days later.

"If we don't get those debris basins cleaned out, then we're not going to be prepared for the storm and we don't know what that storm is going to look like," said Robert Lewin, Santa Barbara County's emergency management director.

The mudslides ravaged the tony

community, destroying at least 65 homes and damaging more than 460 others, officials said. Firefighters went from door to door along several blocks, checking the structural integrity of the damaged homes.

The rest of the community's infrastructure was also damaged. Some streets were cracked in half and authorities closed bridges and overpasses because they were unstable.

"The bridges, the roads, they all need help," Lewin said.

Eight large excavators were being used to clear the debris from Montecito Creek, Tom Fayram, the deputy director of the county's flood control district, said.

"Two days ago I passed by an area where there was no creek and today I went by and the creek was fully restored," he said. "We are making great progress and we have several days before that next storm."

More than 2,000 searchers and recovery workers remained in the community late Saturday, carrying out backbreaking work in the summerlike weather that has made the stretch of Santa Barbara County coast about 90 miles (145 kilometers) northwest of Los Angeles a haven for the wealthy, celebrities and tourists.

Much of the community of about 9,000 remained under mandatory evacuation orders, even unscathed areas, as crews both removed debris and worked to restore water, sanitation, power and gas.

Asia

China rebukes Zara, Delta for calling Taiwan 'country'

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese regulators rebuked fashion brand Zara, Delta Air Lines and medical device maker Medtronic on Friday for calling Taiwan a country on their websites in a fresh show of Beijing's acute sensitivity about the self-ruled island.

Zara, Delta and Medtronic were ordered to remove the "illegal content" and make public apologies, airline and internet regulators said. Other airlines were ordered to check their own websites.

Taiwan and the mainland split in 1949 after a civil war but the Communist Beijing government claims the island as its territory. It regularly lashes out at publishers of books, maps or other materials that call the island a country.

"We apologize for hurting the feelings of the Chinese people!" Delta said on its website. The airline said it took "urgent steps to correct errors" on its website and was "thoroughly examining internal processes."

In a statement on its microblog 10 minutes ahead of a 6 p.m. deadline set by the internet regulator, Medtronic said it understood the Chinese authorities' position but was only trying to help users quickly



Shoppers look at their smartphones as they sit outside of a Zara store at a shopping mall in Beijing, Friday, Jan. 12, 2018.

find the appropriate location.

Zara added a three-sentence statement to its website expressing "sincere apologies" and said it would conduct a "self-examination."

The hotel chain Marriott was ordered this week to shut down its mainland China website and app for a week after it sent out a customer survey that included Taiwan,

Tibet and the Chinese territory of Hong Kong in a list of countries.

"Cyberspace is not an extralegal place, and multinational corporations should abide by relevant laws and regulations," the Shanghai Cyberspace Authority said on its microblog account.

Zara and Medtronic were "required to conduct a com-

Pakistan's Imran Khan talks US relations as elections loom

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Famed cricketer turned politician Imran Khan said Saturday that meeting U.S. President Donald Trump would be a "bitter pill" to swallow should he become Pakistan's prime minister in elections later this year, but added "I would meet him."

In a press briefing, Khan, who has an international reputation as a ladies man and at home is seen more as a religious conservative, said he has been a staunch opponent of Pakistan's participation in the war on terror since it began in 2001 following the 9/11 attacks on the U.S.

"Pakistan had nothing to do with it," he said, adding that he supported co-operation with the United States but not co-opting Pakistan's military into a ground battle with its own people in the tribal regions that border Afghanistan and where Afghan insurgents hide.

Pakistanis are still outraged two weeks after Trump's New Year's Day tweet accusing Islamabad of "deceit and lies," and of taking \$33 billion in aid over 15 years while harboring Afghan insurgents, who are attacking American soldiers

in neighboring Afghanistan.

Khan said that Trump scapegoated Pakistan for the U.S.-led coalition's failure to defeat the Taliban and bring peace to Afghanistan, and that "it was very insulting of him."

Should he become Pakistan's prime minister, Khan said "yes we would talk," referring to Trump, but added that the U.S. dishonors the memory of thousands of Pakistan's soldiers who died battling insurgents in its tribal regions, as well as that of tens of thousands of Pakistanis who died in terrorist attacks.

"The way the United States has treated Pakistan as a door-mat is not fair," he said.

Pakistan's politics have been in turmoil since Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was dismissed from power last year on corruption charges and a party faithful, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, was sworn in as prime minister until new elections are held. Khan referred to Sharif's family, which dominates the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (PML), as "a political



Khan

mafia" that he vowed to defeat at the polls.

It's still not clear what kind of government Khan envisions for Pakistan. While he praises liberals outside Pakistan as anti-war and committed to humanitarian values and freedom of speech, he rails against Pakistani liberals, chastising them for supporting the military operations in the tribal regions.

Khan also raised eyebrows when he announced an electoral alliance with Maulana Sami-ul Haq, a firebrand Islamic cleric, whose hard-line Darul Uloom Haqqania seminary taught several of Afghanistan's senior Taliban leaders. Haq remains a close ally of Afghanistan's Taliban.

Khan's Tehreek-e-Insaf (Movement for Justice) party rules Pakistan's Khyber Pukhtunkhwa (KPK) province, which borders Afghanistan, as part of a coalition government that includes the religious Jamaat-e-Islami party. Khan's provincial government has also given millions of Pakistani rupees to Haq, whose Haqqania seminary is located in KPK.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Suu Kyi says Rohingya mass grave investigation positive step

BANGKOK (AP)—Myanmar's civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi has called the military's investigation into the deaths of Rohingya Muslims found in a mass grave a "positive indication," state media reported Saturday. The military, which has been accused of indiscriminate killings, rape and burning of Rohingya villages, acknowledged that security forces and villagers were responsible for the deaths of 10 people found in a mass grave in December. It said the 10 were "Bengali terrorists" who had threatened villagers, but that the military would "take action" against those who "broke the rules of engagement." The government of Buddhist-majority Myanmar does not acknowledge Romyingya as a minority group even though they have lived in the country for generations. It says they're immigrants from neighboring Bangladesh. Since August, military operations have driven more than 650,000 Rohingya into refugee camps across the border in Bangladesh.

2 bodies recovered from burning oil tanker in East China Sea

BEIJING (AP)—Rescuers on Saturday recovered the bodies of two crew members of an Iranian oil tanker that's been on fire since colliding with a freighter last week in the East China Sea. The bodies were found on the lifeboat

deck of the Sanchi on Saturday morning, state broadcaster CCTV said. Rescuers stayed aboard less than 30 minutes but were able to recover the ship's data and video recordings, it said. The network said rescuers were prevented from entering the crew living quarters by temperatures as high as 89 degrees Celsius (192 Fahrenheit). Footage of the rescue showed parts of the Sanchi still aflame, its hull and superstructure completely stripped of paint. Authorities were concerned the ship could explode and sink but there was no word on Saturday on such a possibility. The cause of the collision remains unclear. One body was recovered from the sea earlier this week, leaving 29 crew members still unaccounted for. The crew was all Iranian except for two Bangladeshis.

Helicopter crashes on way to Indian oil rig, killing 5

NEW DELHI (AP)—A helicopter carrying employees of an Indian oil company to an off-shore rig in the Arabian Sea crashed Saturday, killing five people and leaving another two missing, the navy said. The helicopter was carrying two pilots and five employees of the state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Commission from a Mumbai airfield to the oil rig when it disappeared, prompting a search operation, navy spokesman Capt. D. Sharma said. The five bodies were spotted along with debris from the helicopter, Sharma said. Rescuers on ships found some

life jackets and continued to look for the missing people, he said. The Press Trust of India news agency said the pilot lost contact with the air traffic control soon after take-off on Saturday from Mumbai's Juhu airport. The helicopter belongs to state-run company Pawan Hans, which operates a fleet of helicopters for off-shore operations, charter services and ferrying pilgrims to shrines in mountainous areas.

Ferry carrying schoolchildren sinks in India, killing 3

NEW DELHI (AP)—A ferry boat carrying mostly teenage schoolchildren sank in the Arabian Sea off India's western coast on Saturday, killing three students, police said. The police and the navy involved in the rescue operation said another 29 children were rescued after the incident off Dahanu, a town in Maharashtra state. All the students on the boat have been accounted for, said police officer V.J. Sankha. Earlier, the Press Trust of India news agency said that 32 children have been rescued during search operations using a plane, helicopters and some ships. It also said the schoolchildren were on a picnic when the accident occurred. Police officer U.J. Sankha said the rescue operation had been completed with the recovery of the boat that capsized in the sea. Moshudi Pervez Sheikh, a 17-year-old girl who survived, said the boat tilted and sank as the schoolchildren moved to one side to take selfies using smartphones.

World

Turkey says it will oust Kurdish militants from Afrin, Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—Turkey's president vowed to oust Kurdish militants from Afrin, northern Syria, on Saturday as Syrian rebels also said they are bracing for such an operation.

Speaking in the eastern province of Elazig, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned the People's Protection Units, or YPG, that Turkey will intervene if the "terrorists in Afrin do not surrender."

His remarks came as Turkey's military shelled Afrin, a Kurdish-controlled enclave along Syria's frontier with Turkey, saying it was responding to harassment by the YPG, according to the Turkish station NTV.

Turkey regularly shells Afrin but Saturday's assault was particularly intensive and lasted more than two hours, said YPG spokesman Rojhat Roj.

"We are seeing preparations" for a Turkish push into Afrin, said Roj.

"The YPG will defend itself against any aggression," he added.

Turkey considers the YPG a terror group and an extension of the Kurdish insurgency within its own borders.

The YPG and its political counterpart, the Democratic Union Party, or PYD, say they want regional autonomy with-



AP
Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, left, arrives at a rally of his ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), at a rally in Elazig, eastern Turkey, Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018.

in a federalized Syria. They control nearly 25 percent of Syrian territory, shrewdly striking alliances with the U.S. and Russia to establish the Kurds as a powerful force on the ground in Syria's civil war.

But the Afrin region is detached from the bulk of

Kurdish-controlled territory in northeast Syria. It's surrounded on three sides by Turkish forces and Syrian rebels backed by Ankara. And while the U.S. military maintains bases in the Kurdish territory in northeast Syria, it is not believed to be present in Afrin.

A Syrian opposition news site, Baladi News, quoted a rebel commander on Thursday as saying that joint Turkish military and Syrian rebel operations to attack Afrin could begin "at any moment."

Moaz Abu Omar of the Failaq al-Sham rebel faction said ground operations would likely be backed by Turkish air power.

Turkey has already stationed troops and armored vehicles in

rebel-held territory on either side of Afrin in northern Syria. The Turkish military entered rebel-held Idlib in October to monitor "de-escalation zones" between rebels and the Syria government, following an agreement with Russia and Iran to restore order in Syria. Kurdish officials say the Turkish deployment is a cover for operations against them.

"The Turkish government needs to realize a military operation will not succeed," said Kurdish political official Rezan Hiddo. The YPG is reporting artillery strikes to Russian military observer units stationed in Afrin, he added.

Erdogan has repeatedly said that Turkey will not allow Kurdish militants to form a "terror corridor" in northern Syria.

"They will see how we will mess them up in not even a week," said Erdogan on Saturday.

WORLD BRIEFS

Christ statue in Peru damaged by fire days before pope visit

LIMA, Peru (AP)—A giant Christ statue in Peru's capital that was donated by a construction company at the center of Latin America's largest corruption scandal was damaged Saturday in a fire, days before Pope Francis is set to arrive in the South American nation. Peruvians awoke to find nearly the entire back of the statue, perched on a barren desert bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, charred black. A spokesperson with Peru's firefighting corps told RPP Noticias that two dozen firefighters responded to the blaze and that an early working theory was the "Christ of the Pacific" was purposely set aflame. However police later told state news agency Andina that electrical cables for the statue's lighting had short-circuited due to humidity, sparking the blaze. "Police security for the Holy Father's visit is assured," Col. Manuel Rivera said.

Guatemala arrests lawmaker in 2015 killing of 2 journalists

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—A ruling-party lawmaker accused of orchestrating the murder of two journalists in 2015 was arrested in southwestern Guatemala on Saturday. Public Ministry spokeswoman Yecenia Enriquez said Julio Antonio Juarez Ramirez was detained in the morning at his home in Suchitepequez department on a warrant sought by prosecutors and a U.N. anti-corruption commission. Juarez is suspected of murder, attempted murder and criminal association for allegedly hiring hit men to kill journalist Danilo Efrain Lopez, fearing that his coverage would hurt

Juarez's electoral campaign. A second journalist, Federico Benjamin Salazar, also died in the March 10, 2015, shooting, and Marvin Tunchez Ayala was wounded. Juarez, a member of President Jimmy Morales' National Convergence Front party, has said he is innocent. In November the Supreme Court lifted his immunity from prosecution that comes with elected office. That same month Morales praised Juarez's work and asked those present for a round of applause in recognition.

Islamic State group offshoot claims 2017 Niger attack on US

DAKAR, Senegal (AP)—An Islamic State group offshoot is claiming it carried out the October attack in Niger that killed four U.S. soldiers and four Nigerien troops and sparked questions about U.S. military involvement in West Africa's vast Sahel region. The Mauritanian Nouakchott News Agency reported Friday that Abu al-Walid al-Sahrawi with the self-professed IS affiliate claimed responsibility for the Oct. 4 ambush about 120 miles (200 kilometers) north of Niger's capital, Niamey. The news agency has carried messages from the affiliate before, according to the SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadist websites. The U.S. Africa Command has been investigating the attack, which also wounded two U.S. and eight Nigerien troops. A final report is expected to be released this month. A 12-member Army special forces unit was accompanying 30 Nigerien forces when they were attacked in a densely wooded area by as many as 50 militants traveling by vehicle and carrying small arms and rocket-propelled grenade launchers.

JOHANNESBURG

(AP)—The new leader of South Africa's ruling party vowed Saturday to crack down on the corruption that has weakened the African National Congress in a new push to end inequities that haunt the nation more than 20 years after the end of white minority rule.

"Billions of rands have been illegally diverted to individuals," Cyril Ramaphosa said in a speech to celebrate the party's 106th anniversary.

It was Ramaphosa's first major public address since he was elected to lead Africa's oldest liberation party in December, replacing scandal-prone President Jacob Zuma as party leader. He likely will be elected the next president in 2019.

Public frustration over corruption allegations against Zuma deeply split the ANC in recent months, and Ramaphosa has been pressured by opposition parties and some ANC members to recall Zuma as president. Zuma was booed upon his arrival at Saturday's event.

Ramaphosa instead is emphasizing the need to unify the party.

The ANC "has become deeply divided through factionalism, patronage, corruption

and competition for resources," he said. "At the center of our efforts this year is unity."

On the eve of a high-level ruling party meeting this week that had threatened to discuss his fate, Zuma acknowledged the pressure, announcing Tuesday he was appointing a commission of inquiry to look into the corruption allegations. "This matter cannot wait any longer," he said.

Ramaphosa on Saturday thanked Zuma for that decision.

"Corruption in state-owned enterprises and other public institutions has undermined our government's programs to address poverty and unemployment," Ramaphosa, also the country's deputy president, said. "We are going to confront corruption and state capture in all its forms."

The ANC has been in power since the country's first democratic elections in 1994, but voters have grown disillusioned with the party of Nelson Mandela under Zuma's tenure. South Africa's economy briefly dipped into recession last year and unemployment hovers close to 30 percent.

In 2016 municipal elections, the ANC lost control of the commercial hub of Johan-

nesburg and the capital, Pretoria, for the first time. Observers have warned that if support continues to dwindle, the party faces the possibility of losing its national majority in 2019 and having to govern as part of a coalition.

At the party conference in December, Zuma acknowledged serious challenges but pushed back against allegations of graft, asserting that "theft and corruption" in the private sector is just as bad as in South Africa's government and that "being black and successful is being made synonymous to being corrupt."

Ramaphosa now faces the task of reviving confidence in both the government and the economy.

He pledged on Saturday to address the country's lingering inequality through a program of "radical socio-economic transformation," including free higher education for poor and working-class students, a national minimum wage and land expropriation without compensation.

"We aim to restore our focus on building an economy in which all South Africans can flourish, an economy which benefits the people as a whole rather than a privileged few," he said.

Focus



AP
Pedestrians shop in a roadside market in Lagos, Nigeria, Friday, Jan. 12, 2018. Africans were shocked on Friday to find President Donald Trump had finally taken an interest in their continent. But it wasn't what people had hoped for. Using vulgar language, Trump on Thursday questioned why the U.S. would accept more immigrants from Haiti and "shithole countries" in Africa rather than places like Norway in rejecting a bipartisan immigration deal. On Friday he denied using that language.

World media struggle to translate

Trump's Africa insult

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—President Donald Trump's vulgar insult of Africa was a puzzle for many foreign media organizations, which didn't have a ready translation of his epithet for their readers or listeners.

Their answers ranged from "dirty" to, well, dirtier.

While meeting with senators on immigration, Trump questioned why the United States would accept more immigrants from Haiti and "shithole countries" in Africa, according to one participant and people briefed on the conversation.

His comments Thursday

revived racism accusations against Trump, roiled immigration talks and set off international outrage that left some foreign journalists wondering how to express the offending word.

"We have dozens of language services at the BBC which today are all discussing the right way to translate into their own language the word 'shithole' for their millions of listeners," Paul Danahar, the editor of the BBC's North America bureau, tweeted Friday.

In Africa, the continent that was the object of Trump's insult, Tanzania's Mwananchi

newspaper translated his comment as "mataifa chafu"—simply, "dirty countries."

Taifa Leo, a sister Swahili publication to Kenya's leading Daily Nation, chose "nchi za kinyesi," a more or less exact translation but with a gentler word for excrement.

There is a more direct translation for Trump's term in Swahili, editor Gilbert Mogire said. But, he explained, that would be "unprintable."

In Asia, Japan's Kyodo News wire service chose "kusottare," which literally means "dripping with excrement."

The country's no-nonsense national broadcaster NHK settled for "filthy," while the Asahi Shimbun newspaper decided that a word meaning "outdoor toilets" conveyed the gist of Trump's term.

Chinese media outlets are tightly controlled and have relatively little latitude when it comes to creative interpretations. The official Xinhua News Agency and other outlets translated the expletive as "fengkeng"—literally "cesspit."

In the Spanish-speaking world, news outlets ranging from Argentina's Clarin and

Todo Noticias to Spain's El Mundo and El Diario matched the president's profanity level by translating the word Trump reportedly used as "agujeros de mierda." "Agujeros" is Spanish for holes.

Mexico's El Universal used both that and the simpler "países de mierda," which is the phrasing The Associated Press sent to its Spanish-language customers. "Paises" is Spanish for countries. O Globo and Folha de S.Paulo of Brazil published the Portuguese "países de merda."

Peru's Radio Programas

went with "agujeros de porqueria," or "holes of filth."

News organizations in Serbo-Croatian-speaking countries didn't mince any words, applying a phrase with the same meaning as the term Trump reportedly used and arguably more off-color.

Croatian news portal Express.hr was among the media that used "vukojebina" for shithole.

A slightly less indiscreet English translation of the word would be "where the wolves fornicate," although it is used colloquially in Serbo-Croat to refer to places far from civilization.

Who'd prefer their country to Trump's US? Norwegians would

STAVANGER, Norway (AP)—Norwegians generally live longer than Americans. There's a generous safety net of health care and pensions. And although it's pricey, the country last year was named the happiest on Earth.

President Donald Trump says the United States should take in more Norwegians, but is it any wonder that more Americans are going the other way?

The country of 5.2 million people that seldom makes global headlines awoke Friday to the news that Trump wanted to have more immigrants from Norway, rather than Haiti and countries in Africa that he disparaged with a vulgar term.

The comments came after Trump met Wednesday with Norwegian Prime Minister

Erna Solberg in Washington. His remarks were seen in Oslo as racially charged and sharply at odds with Norwegian values of inclusivity.

"This says a lot about what Trump thinks it means to be an American. It is more about ethnicity than shared values," said Hilde Restad, an associate professor in international affairs and a former U.S. resident.

She added that Norwegians generally didn't want "to be flattered by this U.S. president in this way."

Henrik Heldahl, a commentator for the political website Amerikansk Politikk, said the sentiment would have been welcomed in Norway had Trump used less coarse language for Haiti and African countries.

He said "it could have been a compliment and a nice send-

ing off for Erna Solberg as a trusted U.S. partner," Heldahl said. "But the way he said it guarantees that the reaction here will be very negative."

Emigration from Norway to the U.S. hit its peak in 1882 when almost 29,000 mostly poor Norwegians crossed the Atlantic. In 2016, however, only 1,114 Norwegians moved to the U.S., while 1,603 Americans moved to Norway.

Trump's comments were unlikely to trigger an exodus from one of the wealthiest countries in the world.

Oil-rich Norway ranks fourth in the world for GDP per person, according to the World Bank, compared with the U.S., which was eighth. Norway also boasts a universal health care system, low unemployment and \$1 trillion "rainy day" fund fueled by its

offshore oil and gas resources that helps pay for generous pensions and other social welfare programs.

Norwegians also have a life expectancy of 81.8 years on average, making them the 15th longest-living people in the world, according to the World Health Organization. The U.S. is in 31st place, with a life expectancy of 79.3 years.

"Why would people from Norway want to immigrate here? They have actual health care, and longer life expectancy," author Stephen King wrote on Twitter.

Last year, Norway soared to the top slot in the World Happiness Report. The U.S. was 14th in the latest ranking, down from No. 13 in 2016, and over the years Americans steadily have been rating themselves less happy.

Not that the Nordic land of Edvard Munch's "The Scream" is a perfect paradise: It's gloomy from a lack of sunlight for most of the winter, temperatures are comparable to the northern United States, and the cost of living is high—a beer can cost as much as \$12, and so can a meal at McDonald's.

It also is not as ethnically homogenous as some might think. About 17 percent of inhabitants are immigrants or children of immigrants.

Norway has its own battles over foreign-born migrants, with the populist Progress Party—a junior partner in the ruling coalition—calling for a tightening of immigration controls.

Solberg's U.S. visit was hailed as a success in Norway where she was praised for raising issues around climate

change and international trade. But immigration appeared not to have been on the agenda.

Christian Tybring Gjedde, the Progress Party's head of foreign policy, said Trump was stating that "citizens of other countries are not as nice as Norwegians."

"I would never express myself in that way, but it is flattering that he wants more of us in the country," he said, adding: "Asylum seekers are expensive and a challenge to the culture."

National Norwegian broadcaster TV2 went to the streets in Oslo on Friday, asking people if they wanted to move to the U.S. None said they wanted to leave.

"Absolutely not," one unidentified man said. And an unnamed woman added: "If they get a new president."

Health & Fitness

WEIGHT LOSS

How to keep off the pounds for good

By KAREN D'SOUZA
THE MERCURY NEWS/TNS

The holidays are over and as the fog of egg nog, gingerbread and candy canes begins to lift, many people find themselves confronting the harsh reality of the bathroom scale.

Now is the time to put down the champagne flute, sweep up the tinsel and start thinking about healthy living and New Year's resolutions. One of the most passionate topics is always weight loss, not just how to shed a few pounds fast but how to take off the extra weight and keep it off for good. If you have been over indulging since Halloween saddled you with extra bags of candy, you might want to start taking stock of your jingle belly.

The trick is to address core issues, experts say, rather than lose weight fast only to let the pounds creep right back on. This is not about a trendy cleanse or quick fix diet you will have forgotten about come Valentine's Day. So think beyond those apple cider vinegar shots you've heard of to make lasting changes.

"A lot of diets can help you lose weight but the hard part is finding a diet you can stick to over the long haul," says Dr. John Morton, chief of Bariatric surgery at Stanford Health Care. "That's the real challenge. Can you maintain the weight loss over time?"

Discipline was always the sticking point for Robert Brandyberry. The San Jose resident says he could barely get himself to plow through one workout at his previous weight of 433 pounds. But now, 28 weeks into his latest diet and workout plan, which he learned from the coaches at San Jose's Achievement Fitness Center, he has lost a whopping 136 pounds. He went from having high blood pressure and borderline diabetes to a clean bill of health.

"Before when I got stressed out, I lost myself



It's always the question—how do you lose weight and keep it off for good?
DREAMTIME

in cheeseburgers and Mountain Dew because food never talks back," he says. "Now I go to the gym and get rid of the stress that way."

The diet is tough and the workouts grueling but he's determined to get to his goal (to have lost 200 pounds in the course of a year). He does a high-intensity workout twice a day, seven days a week. The first workout comes at 6:30 am, the second after a day's work. The man who used to get winded taking his 5-year-old to the park and who struggled to tie his shoes is now a gym rat.

"When I first started my whole body hurt and I could barely walk. I needed a bench just to get up off the floor," he says, "But I had to check my ego at the door and just suck it up."

Changing the way he eats has been key to winning the battle of the bulge.

"I follow a high protein, low carb diet. No sugars and very, very low sodium. I drink well over a gallon of water a day," says Brandyberry, 44. "The diet is hard to stick to. It takes a lot of mental power that I didn't have before. The lifestyle changes I have made are for good."

Social media has played a huge role in keeping him on track.

"Before I had no accountability. I'd say 'I will start soon' and that passed," he says. "Now I have the best support system with my friends. They comment on my Facebook posts with so much positive energy, it makes me want to keep going."

Meanwhile, slow and steady is the plan for Diana Crawford. She's been on the Jenny Craig

program since 2016 and has whittled her weight down from 300 to 195, which has improved her quality of life immeasurably.

"I will have to eat the way I'm eating now for the rest of my life if I don't want to gain weight again," says the 64-year-old from Pinole, Calif. "Bodies are funny and mine is funnier than most in that it will try to take me back to my highest weight."

For John Manoj Vastrad, the motivation to make a lasting change and keep pushing himself was more emotional. After getting a divorce from his wife of 18 years, back in 2013, he went through a dark period and fitness was the light at the end of the tunnel.

"After going through an initial bleak period, I had a lot time on my hands and I was also between jobs," says the 46-year-old from Fremont. He filled the void with a workout regiment worthy of a triathlete. "I started with 100 push ups, 100 squats, 200 bicycle crunches, 50 pull ups every alternate day and I peaked at 250 push ups, 150 squats, 300 bicycle crunches and 65 pull ups every alternate day."

To top it off, he also tried to go hiking or biking almost every week. He has had moments of weakness, he admits, but he has always found a way to push through the wall of inertia. Knowing he has a family history of heart issues and diabetes is what keeps him going.

"It wasn't always easy and I still have to drag myself to workout but the after effects are better than any drug," he says. "By far the biggest

motivator is just the wonderful feeling of being healthy and fit, free from illnesses, depression, aches and pains and stress. I would rather spend a few hours every week in the gym than in the doctor's waiting room or in a hospital."

From a doctor's perspective, Morton suggests that no matter what combination of diet and fitness plan you choose, you should try to follow some basic rules, such as eating some protein at breakfast, even if all you have time for is a little Greek yogurt or peanut butter, and trying to get some exercise. Every single day.

"That old adage about eating like a king at breakfast and a pauper at dinner turns out to be true," he says.

He also advises patients to exercise in between leaving work and coming home so that the activity can be a sort of emotional buffer zone that helps fight stress, which is one of the factors that causes people to overeat in the first place. Calming down and eating more mindfully may be crucial in combating the American obesity epidemic.

"Stress triggers cortisol, the fight-or-flight hormone in the body," says Morton, "and that makes your body fight even harder to hold onto those pounds."

Brandyberry admits there are obstacles but he remains resolved.

"You have to keep reminding yourself why you are doing it," he says. "For me, I could care less about looking good at the beach. I just want to be here for my kids, you know?"

Healthy Living

A good root

Studies have shown that extract of ginger root may be an effective remedy for several health conditions.

Good for what ails you

- **May reduce pain** in knee and hip from osteoarthritis
- **Taken an hour before surgery**, may reduce nausea and vomiting following surgery
- **May lessen menstrual pain**



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Life & Style

Models accuse photographers Weber, Testino of sex misconduct

NEW YORK (AP)—In a sweeping new sexual misconduct investigation, The New York Times reported Saturday that several male models have accused famed photographers Bruce Weber and Mario Testino of unwanted advances and coercion.

Fifteen current and former models told the Times that Weber's demands often occurred during photo

shoots and other private sessions. Thirteen assistants and models accused Testino, the Times reported.

"I remember him putting his fingers in my mouth, and him grabbing my privates," model Robyn Sinclair said of Weber. "We never had sex or anything, but a lot of things happened. A lot of touching. A lot of molestation."

Models were asked to

"breathe" and to touch themselves and Weber, moving their hands wherever they felt "energy," the newspaper said. Weber often would guide the models' hands with his own, the newspaper reported.

Weber's racy advertisements for Calvin Klein, Abercrombie & Fitch and other companies helped turn him into a star in commercial and fine art photography.

Testino, adored by celebrities, glossy magazines including Vogue and younger members of the British royal family, was accused of groping and making sexual come-ons, the newspaper said.

Allegations against both date back many years, with accusers in some cases recounting details with remarkable consistency, the Times said.

Representatives for both



This combination of 2008 and 2017 photos shows photographers Bruce Weber, left, and Mario Testino. On Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018, The New York Times reported that male models have accused Weber and Testino of unwanted advances and coercion. **AP**

photographers said they were dismayed and surprised by the allegations.

"I'm completely shocked and saddened by the outrageous claims being made against me, which I absolutely deny," Weber said in a statement from his lawyer.

The law firm Lavelly & Singer, representing Testino, challenged the character and credibility of people who complained of harassment.

Testino's attorney, Andrew Brettler, said in an email to The Associated Press late Saturday, "We are not providing any fur-

ther comment at this time."

Model Ryan Locke worked with Testino on Gucci ad campaigns and called him a "sexual predator." He told the Times that when he told other models he was going to meet Testino for a possible casting "everyone started making these jokes—they said he was notorious, and 'tighten your belt.'"

On the last day of a shoot, as they were taking photographs on a bed, Testino told everybody in the room to leave and locked the door, Locke recalled.

Katie Couric breaks silence on Matt Lauer: 'I had no idea'

Katie Couric, who was Matt Lauer's "Today" co-host for several years, broke her silence Saturday on sexual misconduct allegations against him.

Couric told People magazine: "I had no idea this was going on during my tenure or after I left."

She departed NBC in 2006 to anchor the "CBS Evening News" and has been criticized for her silence in the more than a month since Lauer was fired. NBC News conducted an investigation of a Lauer colleague's detailed complaint of "inappropriate sexual behavior." Other women have come forward with accusations against him.

"I think I speak for many of my former colleagues when I say this was not the Matt we knew," Couric told People. "Matt was a kind and generous colleague who treated me with respect. In fact, a joke I once made on late-night television was just that, because it was completely contrary to our brother-sister relationship. It's still very upsetting. I really admire the way Savannah (Guthrie) and Hoda (Kotb) and the entire 'Today' show staff have handled a very dif-

ficult situation."

Couric was referring to a remark she made in 2012 on "Watch What Happens Live with Andy Cohen" that Lauer "pinches me on the ass a lot." The clip received wide attention online after Lauer's firing in late November.

Couric's only other public statement on Lauer was one she made on Instagram last month in response to a user who chided her for not speaking out: "It's incredibly upsetting and I will say something when I'm ready to. Thanks for your interest."

Lauer has since apologized in a statement.

Couric is working on a six-part documentary series for the National Geographic channel called "Gender Revolution: A Journey with Katie Couric" and said one episode will focus on harassment women have faced in the workplace.

"The whole thing has been very painful for me," Couric told People of Lauer's behavior. "The accounts I've read and heard have been disturbing, distressing and disorienting and it's completely unacceptable that any woman at the 'Today' show experienced this kind of treatment." **(AP)**

FIRST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

† *Florence Rosario Leschibwemwaay S. Camacho-Stephen*

Lovingly known as "Encharing; Ghó; Flo"
November 10, 1967 – January 24, 2017

We, the family of late †Florence Rosario Leschibwemwaay S. Camacho-Stephen would like to invite all our families, relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the First Year Death Anniversary of our beloved's passing unto eternal life.

Mass of Intension is being offered
at the following churches:

San Roque Church
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday 6am
Sunday 7am and 9am

Sta. Remedio (Tanapag)
Monday-Saturday 6pm
Sunday 6am

Kristo Rai (Garapan)
Monday-Friday 6am
Saturday 6pm
Sunday 6am/8am/9:30am

San Jose (Oleai)
Mondays (no mass)
Tuesdays 6am
Wednesdays 6pm
Thurs/Fri's 6am
Saturday 6pm
Sunday 7:30am/9am

St. Jude (Kobler)
Monday-Friday 6pm
(Tues. & Sat. no mass)
Sunday 6/8/10am

San Antonio
Monday-Saturday 6pm
Sunday 7/9am

Sta. Soledad (Kagman)
Monday-Saturday 6pm
Sunday 6am and 8:30am

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Monday-Friday 6am
Wednesday 6am and 6pm
Sunday 6/9/11am and 5pm

On the last day, January 24th,
breakfast will be served at Kristo Rai Social Hall.

YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.
OLOMWAAY, SI YU'US MA'ASE, KILISOU, & THANK YOU,

Weisch, Josh, & Family

YouTube suspends star over suicide video, doesn't shut door

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—YouTube has suspended a star who posted video images of what appeared to be a suicide victim but said Saturday that doesn't mean it won't work with him in the future.

The video service announced this week that it had pulled Logan Paul's channel from its ad-supported Google Preferred platform and put

two other projects on hold.

YouTube chief business officer Robert Kyncl said Saturday there's no timetable for when Paul's future will be addressed again. Kyncl didn't shut YouTube's door on Paul.

"Everything is evolving so fast," Kyncl said. "The best thing we can do is put all projects on hold indefinitely, and there's no date or plan for him

in the future."

Paul apologized for posting video of him in a forest near Mount Fuji in Japan near what seemed to be a body hanging from a tree. The location is known in Japan as a frequent site for suicides.

YouTube said the images violated its policies. Paul pulled



Paul

the images from his channel on his own.

YouTube was criticized for moving slowly in response, taking nearly two weeks to take action. YouTube said on Twitter this week that critics were right to be frustrated by its initial lack of response.

Kyncl said Paul recognizes

that he has made serious missteps and has expressed remorse for them.

"The most important thing to focus on is that actions speak louder than words and Logan has the opportunity to prove that," he said.

Removing Paul's work from the Google Preferred platform cuts off a significant route to advertising revenue through YouTube. YouTube

also said it would not feature Paul in the fourth season of its series "Foursome" and would put other work on hold. Paul is one of the platform's biggest stars, with Forbes magazine estimating he earned \$12.5 million last year.

YouTube said it would soon announce steps to protect advertisers from having their products connected to controversial material.

North Carolina promotes '3 Billboards' locations to tourists

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—North Carolina is promoting the locations where the award-winning "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" was filmed as tourist destinations.

The News & Observer of Raleigh reports the state's tourism division has organized a trip planner for the locations where the movie

was filmed in western North Carolina in 2016.

The three-day trip goes through Sylva, Dillsboro, Black Mountain, Asheville and Maggie Valley.

The movie won four Golden Globes, including best dramatic film and acting awards for Frances McDormand and Sam Rockwell. It also won three Critics Choice Movie

Awards.

McDormand plays a grieving mother who's angry with local authorities, who haven't solved her daughter's rape and murder. Rockwell plays a deputy.

North Carolina also promoted 2012's "The Hunger Games," which was filmed in the western part of the state.

Producer re-shot sexual assault scene in YouTube drama

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—A sexual assault scene in an upcoming YouTube drama series was re-shot and revised after a female showrunner joined the project.

Executive producer Lauren LeFranc said she wanted to focus more closely on the experience of the victim, a 16-year-old played by actress Maddie Hasson, and make the assault "visceral and real."

The pilot episode of "Impulse" was both shot and revised before the sexual misconduct scandal broke in Hollywood last year, snaring some of the industry's biggest players including Harvey Weinstein and Kevin Spacey.

The emergence of the anti-misconduct #MeToo move-

ment and the new YouTube drama is a coincidence but a welcome one, LeFranc said in an interview following a Q&A with TV critics Saturday. The series' debut date was not announced.

"We're hoping that because of the conversations being had that people are going to give a show like this more credit and see there's a voice here," she said, "rather than falling on the sidelines like some previous shows and films that have spoken out about sexual assault have come and gone."

She was determined that the assault not be depicted as a "neat and tidy" incident that the character, Hassan's Henry, easily moves past, Le Franc said. It's also pivotal to the sci-

fi drama because it triggers the first "teleportation" for Henry and remains central to her young life, she said.

Hassan ("Twisted," "The Finder") called it "very important to us that this be a real story, even though it's fiction and has the veil of science fiction."

It's a chance to give abuse survivors a voice and the chance to feel less alone, Hassan said.

The drama at its heart is a coming-of-age story that focuses on Henry, the young man who attacked her and is left paralyzed by the violent aftermath, as well as Henry's mother (played by Missi Pyle, "Gone Girl") and others in Henry's world, its producers said.

'True Lies' actress alleges she was abused at age 12

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Actress Eliza Dushku says she was sexually molested at age 12 by a stunt coordinator during production of the 1994 film "True Lies."

In a post on her Facebook account Saturday, Dushku also alleged that Joel Kramer, then 36, caused her to be injured on the set as payback for disclosing the alleged misconduct to a friend. Kramer denied the accusations as "lies" in trade publication interviews.

A Dushku representative didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Saturday.

"These are outlandish, manipulated lies," Kramer told the website Deadline. "I never sexually molested her. ... I think she's making this up in her imagination."

"True Lies" filmmaker James Cameron said he was unaware of what he called Dushku's "heartbreaking" experience and lauded her as "very brave" for speaking up.

"Had I known about it, there would have been no mercy," said Cameron, who was taking part in a Q&A session with TV critics Saturday to promote a new TV show. "Now, especially when I have daugh-

ters, there really is no mercy."

Dushku joins the growing ranks of those alleging sexual misconduct in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal. The allegations against the movie

mogul, which he has denied, and other Hollywood and media figures gave rise to the #MeToo protest movement.

In her post, Dushku said she shared what occurred at the time with her parents, two adult friends and an older brother, adding that no one "seemed ready to confront this taboo subject then, nor was I."

She said the "ever growing list of sexual abuse and harassment victims who have spoken out with their truths have finally given me the ability to speak out. It has been indescribably exhausting, bottling this up inside me for all of these years."

Dushku alleged in the post that Kramer lured her to his hotel room, put her on a bed and, approaching her naked except for a "flimsy" towel, rubbed his body over hers.

When she confided to an adult female friend who then con-



Dushku

fronted him on the set, Dushku said that she suffered broken ribs "in no small coincidence" in a stunt that went awry. Kramer "was responsible for my safety" on the film, she said.

Minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian during production, but the woman who said she was serving as Dushku's guardian says that failed to protect the child actress.

Sue Booth-Forbes told Variety and Deadline that Dushku is "telling the truth." The guardian said she reported what she called Kramer's "inappropriate sexual behavior" at the time and that no action was taken by what she called "a person in authority." She did not identify the person.

The Associated Press, which does not normally identify minors who are victims of sexual abuse, is reporting Dushku's name because she has gone public with her allegations.

"True Lies," starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jamie Lee Curtis, is one of a string of Cameron hit films that include the "Titanic" and "Avatar."

Neighbor wants to reach out after death of young mother

DEAR ABBY: I have just learned that a neighbor lost his wife. She died during childbirth. As a wife and mother, all I can think about is that newborn baby boy and his two beautiful sisters. It breaks my heart. I have never spoken to him, but I did chat from time to time with his wife.

I would like to offer help to the father, but I don't know how I should approach him or even if I should. Please offer me some advice.

GRIEVING FOR THEM IN HAWAII

DEAR GRIEVING: Reach out to your neighbor by writing him a short note saying that you heard the tragic news and would like to offer your condolences. Explain that although you didn't know his wife well, you had spoken with her occasionally. Then offer the kind of help you are willing to give—perhaps meals for his freezer or child care if the need arises. I am sure if you do, the gesture will be appreciated.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I enjoy going to estate sales. Recently, we were shocked when we heard an estate sales representative ask an older lady if she could afford what she was looking at. The woman answered "yes." Shortly after that, as the woman was leaving, the estate representative asked her if she could search the pockets in her jacket! She said "yes," and nothing was found on her. The estate sales representative followed up with, "You know how it is."

We were appalled, to say the least. We had been browsing right along with the older lady and saw nothing suspicious. What do you make of this? Should we have said something?

GRACIE IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR GRACIE: Since I wasn't there, I can't guess at what may have triggered the sales rep's suspicions, but her treating a prospective customer in such a heavy-handed manner is surprising. I have seen wealthy shoppers at more than one estate sale who "dressed down" to enable themselves to get a better bargain. That said, I think you were wise not to intervene. To have done otherwise might have caused a scene and embarrassed the shopper even more than she already was.

DEAR ABBY: My parents are driving me crazy. About six months ago they opened a little store close to where we live. Every day since it opened, they have made me work with them, on the weekends as well as after school until 6 p.m., when Dad gets there.

I'm tired of working there. They don't pay me and are very strict. I want to tell them I don't want to work there anymore, but I'm afraid if I do they will punish me. Can you tell me what to do?

DRIVEN CRAZY IN ILLINOIS

DEAR DRIVEN CRAZY: I don't know how old you are, but your parents wouldn't be doing this if they didn't need your help. Please try to step up to the plate with less re-

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



sentment. By being involved in the family business, you are learning not only responsibility, but also skills that will be valuable when you are older.

What you need to do now is recognize that your parents need you and, provided the work doesn't conflict with your schoolwork and normal social life, be proud that you are capable enough to contribute in a meaningful way.

DEAR READERS: In the words of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who in 1968 was martyred in the cause of civil rights, and whose birthday we remember today: "We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope."

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



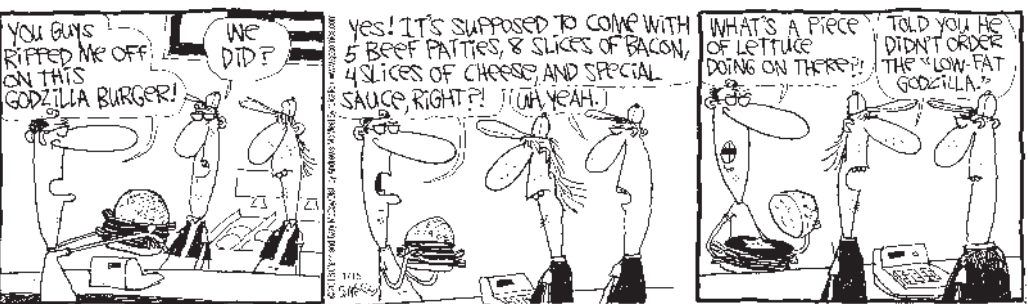
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Dandy guy
4 Reading lights
9 TV schedule abbr.
12 Small batteries
13 Worship season
14 Sinbad's bird
15 "Ironman" competition
17 Doctrine
18 Hwy.
19 Figure out
21 More rainy
24 Swindle
25 Corn spike
26 Collec-tion
28 In plentiful amounts
31 Compos-er Satie
33 Plant seeds
35 Actor LaBeouf
36 Mel who voiced Bugs Bunny

DOWN

1 Obese
2 Scull tool
3 Omega preceder
4 Coffee bar
5 Orders
6 Sticks
7 Actress
8 Gretchen
9 Goats
10 New York tribe
11 Celebrating
12 A win
13 Pear variety
14 Pinnacle
15 Illustrations
16 River blockers
17 Coach Ewbank
18 British noble
19 Test drives
20 AAA job
21 Ovid's
22 Harvard rival
23 Leg joint
24 Reception amenity
25 Cuba's Fidel
26 Outfits
27 Chal-lenged
28 Allow
29 Snitch
30 Actress Falco
31 "As I see it," in a text
32 Berliner's cry
33 Carnival city
34 Chatter

Solution time: 26 mins.

Last Friday's Answer 01-15

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Drew Brees, 39; Regina King, 47; Chad Lowe, 50; Mario Van Peebles, 61.

Happy Birthday: This will be a year to reevaluate and rediscover. Don't feel the need to act in haste or to let pressure and stress rule your life. Step off the stage and look methodically at what you have done and what you still want to accomplish. Make choices based on your desired end results and then figure out how to reach them. Your numbers are 3, 14, 19, 26, 35, 44, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let your emotions take over. Be cognizant of what others are up to and be willing to keep the peace in order to follow your own path. Protect your personal possessions as well as your position and reputation. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Pick your preferences and get started. Learn all you can by asking questions and trying your hand at something you've never done before. Don't worry about what's going on around you. Gravitate toward positive people and new opportunities. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Listen to what's being said and how to best use the information given to ensure that you don't lose sight of what's important to you. Protect your money, possessions and your health. Avoid unpredictable individuals and situations. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Socializing and sharing your ideas with someone different than you will open your mind to new possibilities. A partnership will develop that can help you explore different ways to put your skills, talents and knowledge to good use. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Instigating change in your personal or professional life is tempting, but before you make a move, consider your motives, the cost involved and whether it will be as beneficial as you imagine. Think before you take action. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Expand your interests and participate in events that will be geared toward meeting people going through similar life changes as you. Focus on health, greater stability and getting rid of any doubt or uncertainty about your future. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't ignore domestic problems. Recognize if you or someone close to you isn't happy or if your relationships with others are no longer equal. Consider ways to improve your situation, and be willing to listen to suggestions and advice. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Express your vision and you'll persuade others to see things your way. Interacting with friends and relatives will help you clear up any uncertainty that is slowing down your progress. Short trips and unique solutions will lead to victory. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may want to bring about change, but it's best to take a wait-and-see approach if money, health or legalities are involved. Caution is in your best interest along with secrecy and protecting your possessions and personal identity. ***

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Question your motives before you make a move. It's important to recognize what you really want to accomplish before you take action. Personal matters should be your first concern. It's OK to do things differently. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): While your heart tells you one thing, your common sense will signal another. You may want change, but before you go that route, it is best to figure out exactly what results are likely to unfold. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take on something new and exciting. Step up and offer assistance or solutions. Express your thoughts openly and be willing to put your suggestions to the test. You will attract attention and interest in something you want to pursue. ****

Birthday Baby: You are steadfast, intense and unique. You are insightful and unpredictable.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit EugeniaLast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

Difficulty Level ★ 1/15

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

'STRANGER THINGS' (NETFLIX SERIES) Solution: 14 letters

Y H R E N N E R B D U S T I N
L C E E E N I D O M S Y E E E
U C N A D K U P S I D R V E T
A H L A T Y I J O Y C E E D A
P A R A N O R M A L L E T Y G
T R W J R N N A N E U K S O B
S L O O T U I R I C W E N O
E I L N T L T L U D A V I D Z
R E F A A A L A H O S H D P Z
H S H T M I N I N G B D A P A
C I A H M I J O W R U R S A R
A N R A Y B W E N F E A A N A
L K D N E R A K F I I P L H T
E S S O R E L E E H W N U C A
B H O P P E R E S I E R N S M

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Last Friday's Answer: Flyby
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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- Maintains telecommunication system by following manufacturer's instructions for house phone and console operation.
- Maintains safe and clean reception area by complying with procedures, rules, and regulations.
- Maintains continuity among work teams by documenting and communicating actions, irregularities, and continuing needs.
- Performs clerical duties.
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- Prepare documents and packages for mail or shipping.
- Scan, rename, and file documents on server.
- Contributes to team effort by accomplishing related results as needed.

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Randle lifts Lakers past Mavericks in overtime



DALLAS (AP)—With a matinee game in the middle of a road trip, Dallas native Julius Randle had a rare opportunity to enjoy a night off in his hometown.

He already had a good afternoon.

Randle had 23 points and 15 rebounds, including a follow shot late in overtime that helped the Los Angeles Lakers seal a 107-101 victory over the Mavericks on Saturday.

“Yeah, I’m going to enjoy it for sure,” Randle said. “I’ve got my little man here, got my wife here, my family. I’m going to enjoy this night.”

With his team leading 104-101, Randle grabbed a rebound on Lonzo Ball’s missed jump shot and scored on the rebound with 18 seconds remaining, giving the Lakers a five-point lead they preserved to extend their winning streak to a season-best four games.

“That’s a tough place to win, so it’s a good job getting this win on the road,” Randle said.

The Lakers (15-27) trailed by double digits in the fourth quarter, but battled back for their first win against the Mavericks in 15 tries and their first victory in Dallas since Feb. 24, 2013.

“We just didn’t want to lose,” guard Jordan Clarkson said.

Clarkson added 19 points, Kyle Kuzma had 18, and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 17.

Warriors 127, Raptors 125

In Toronto, Stephen Curry returned from a two-game absence to score 24 points, Klay



Thompson had 26 and the Golden State Warriors blew nearly all of a 27-point lead before beating the Toronto Raptors 127-125.

DeMar DeRozan scored 42 points for the Raptors, but the Warriors had just enough to beat Toronto for the eighth straight time.

Kevin Durant scored 25 points and Draymond Green had 14 for the Warriors, who

have won 12 straight on the road. Golden State’s 19 road wins are the most in the NBA.

Spurs 112, Nuggets 80

In San Antonio, Kawhi Leonard scored 19 points in his return from a three-game absence, Davis Bertans had 18 and San Antonio never trailed in a victory over Denver.

San Antonio won its 14th straight at the AT&T Center,

improving the league’s best home record to 19-2.

The Spurs’ projected starting lineup of Leonard, LaMarcus Aldridge, Pau Gasol, Tony Parker and Danny Green played together for only the sixth game this season and just the second time at home.

Leonard played 28 minutes after sitting out the previous three games with a strained left shoulder.

Green had 11 points in his return from a 10-game absence due to tightness in his left groin.

Thunder 101, Hornets 91

In Charlotte, Russell Westbrook had 25 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists, and Oklahoma City beat Charlotte to snap a three-game losing streak.

Paul George added 17 points

Los Angeles Lakers’ Kentavious Caldwell-Pope (1) attempts to make a pass as Dallas Mavericks’ Yogi Ferrell (11) and Harrison Barnes, right rear, defend in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018, in Dallas.

and Steven Adams had 14 rebounds and 11 rebounds as the Thunder avenged a loss earlier this season to the Hornets.

Oklahoma City trailed by three entering the fourth quarter, but its bench helped open a double-digit lead as Charlotte shot 5 of 21 from the field over the final 12 minutes. The Thunder attempted 97 shots as they dominated the offensive glass.

Bulls 107, Pistons 105

In Chicago, Zach LaVine scored 14 points in his first game in 11 months, rookie Lauri Markkanen added 19 points and Chicago beat Detroit.

Chicago made 17 3-pointers and held off several late charges by the Pistons to win for the 13th time in its last 20 games.

LaVine was making his Bulls debut after being acquired from Minnesota in the Jimmy Butler trade. LaVine, who last season averaged 18.9 points in 47 contests, hadn’t played since he suffered a torn ACL against Detroit on Feb. 3.

Wizards 119, Nets 113, OT

In Washington, John Wall scored 17 of his 23 points in the second half and overtime and added 16 assists as Washington beat Brooklyn after giving back a 23-point lead.

Bradley Beal added 24 points and Marcin Gortat had 16 points and 13 rebounds for the Wizards, who needed their first overtime victory of the season to avoid being swept by the Nets in the season series.

Kelly Oubre added 17 points off the bench off 5-of-6 shooting as Washington moved to 2-2 on a five-game homestand.

Clippers 126, Kings 105

In Los Angeles, Lou Williams scored 26 points and injury-depleted Los Angeles beat Sacramento to get to .500 at the season’s halfway mark.

Willie Reed added 14 points and 13 rebounds starting in place of DeAndre Jordan, who has a sprained left ankle. Blake Griffin had 11 points and nine assists as one of eight Clippers in double figures.

Besides Jordan, they were without Austin Rivers and Danilo Gallinari. Patrick Beverley had season-ending knee surgery while C.J. Wilson is out indefinitely.

Federer deflects attention to Nadal, Djokovic in Australia



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Roger Federer prefers to think of Rafael Nadal or Novak Djokovic as the favorites for the Australian Open title, despite entering as defending champion and coming off a worry-free preparation.

“I play down my chances just because I don’t think a 36-year-old should be a favorite of a tournament,” Federer said Sunday on the eve of the year’s first Grand Slam tournament, “It should not be the case.

“That’s why I see things more relaxed, you know, at a later stage of my career.”

The 19-time major winner can afford to relax slightly longer, given the half of the draw that he shares with Djokovic doesn’t start until day two. Top-ranked Nadal will get under way Monday night against Victor Estrella Burgos on Rod Laver Arena,

where he lost the final in five sets to Federer last year.

All four singles finalists were 30 or older here last year in what became a tournament for the ages, and three of them are back.

Serena Williams beat her older sister Venus Williams in the final to capture an Open era-record 23rd major here last year but decided against defending her title because she didn’t have enough time to recover from health issues after a complicated childbirth in September.

Venus Williams is seeded fifth and is second match scheduled on center court to get her 77th major under way with a challenging opener against Belinda Bencic.

She’s 4-0 in career head-to-heads against 20-year-old Bencic—who reached a career-high No. 7 ranking in 2016 and who helped Federer win the Hopman Cup title for Switzerland earlier this

month—but is coming off an abbreviated preparation that included a loss in the second round to eventual champion Angelique Kerber at the Sydney International last week.

At 37, Venus Williams among the top contenders at Melbourne Park. Others in action on Monday include seventh-seeded Jelena Ostapenko, who meets Francesca Schiavone in a match featuring current vs. former French Open champions, No. 2-ranked Caroline Wozniacki, who opens against Mihaela Buzarnescu, and U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens against Zhang Shuai.

Simona Halep is the No. 1 seed in the women’s draw, and one of six women who can hold the No. 1 ranking at the end of the Australian Open. Halep, who has had back-to-back first-round exits on her last two trips to Melbourne Park, opens on day

two against Australian wildcard entry Destanee Aiava.

Only two men can hold the top ranking in the first week of February—Nadal or Federer—regardless of what No. 3 Grigor Dimitrov or No. 4 Alexander Zverev or anybody else does in Melbourne.

Federer returns in contrasting circumstances to his appearance in 2017, when he was coming off a six-month break for an injured left knee and had low expectations about ending a Grand Slam title drought that dated to Wimbledon in 2012.

“This year I hope to win the first few rounds and get rolling hopefully, whereas last year I was just hoping to win,” a match, Federer told his pre-tournament news conference Sunday. “It was more of a ‘let’s see what happens’ kind of tournament, maybe similar to what Novak or Stan (Wawrinka) or others are go-

ing through this year.”

Six-time Australian Open winner Djokovic has been sidelined for six months with an injured right elbow, returning with a remodeled service motion, and 2014 champion Wawrinka has also been out of the game since Wimbledon after surgery on his knee.

Nadal, who won the French and U.S. Open titles last year, has also had a limited preparation restricted to couple of exhibition matches last week as he recovers from a sore knee.

None of that makes them any less of a threat to Federer.

“Rafa, with the year that he’s had, and Novak with the six titles he’s had here, even if it’s unknown how he’s feeling, they could very well be the favorites, too,” Federer said. “If you’re in the draw, you give yourself a chance. That’s what happened for me last year—all ended up way better than I thought it would, as you know.”

Patriots back in AFC title game after crushing Titans



FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—The New England Patriots have handled every bit of adversity that has been thrown at them this season—from a string of injuries to the recent off-field firestorm created by reports of purported discord within the core of the franchise.

Now, they'll have a chance to play for yet another AFC championship.

The Patriots' 35-14 victory over the Titans in Saturday's divisional round was yet another reminder of the defending Super Bowl champion's unique ability to not only compartmentalize, but play some of their best football in the face of it.

Tom Brady chuckled when he was asked after the game about his name being mentioned in a swirl of media reports last week about alleged bickering between himself, coach Bill Belichick and team owner Robert Kraft.

"Nooooo," he responded sarcastically, when a reporter asked about Brady's name being mentioned in a negative light.

But Brady said it "just goes with the territory."

"I just try to be consistent, show up and do the best I can do every week for the team and regardless of whether I'm the worst quarterback in the league or the best quarterback in the league or somewhere in-between," he said.

It was Brady's 10th career postseason game with at least three TD tosses, moving him past Joe Montana for the most in NFL history. It also brought out some of the best football in his teammates.

James White caught a touchdown pass and ran for another, and Danny Amendola had 11 catches for 112 yards—his first career 100-yard receiving game.

"All the hard work we put in is for these moments," White said. "We have to make the most of these opportunities."

Marcus Mariota tossed an early touchdown pass to give the Titans



Tennessee Titans safety Kevin Byard (31) tackles New England Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski (87) after a reception during the first half of an NFL divisional playoff football game, Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018, in Foxborough, Mass. AP

an early 7-0 lead. But Tennessee faltered down the stretch as the Patriots

defense swarmed the third-year quarterback and sacked him a Patriots

playoff-record eight times.

Titans coach Mike Mularkey revealed after the game that Mariota suffered a strained quadriceps muscle

in the first quarter. But Mariota said it was no excuse.

"Everybody plays with something," he said.

He said he walked off the field feeling "embarrassed" a week after leading his team back from 18 points down against Kansas City. But he said watching the efficiency of Brady and the Patriots was a learning experience he will take with him moving forward.

"You don't play to come and lose in the divisional playoff. You play to win the whole thing," Mariota said. "Obviously, this is the blueprint. New England's been in the playoffs consistently. We can learn a lot from them."

Brady will be making his 12th AFC championship game appearance in his 18 NFL seasons. He now has 221 career wins as a starting quarterback (regular season and playoffs), extending his NFL record. Peyton Manning is next with 200 career victories.

Gronkowski finished with six catches for 81 yards and a touchdown. It was his 10th career postseason TD. He's tied with five others for third all-time. But it's the most for a tight end. Only two players in NFL history have more receiving touchdowns in the playoffs: Jerry Rice with 22 and John Stallworth with 12.

But Gronkowski said it's not something that is even registering right now.

"That's great to hear and everything, but that's not really the main goal," he said. "Maybe down the road you can look back and look at that stuff, but as of right now, what our main goal is just keep on grinding, get the win and that's what we did tonight."

The Patriots feasted on third down against the Titans' defense, going 11 of 17 in those situations.

Titans safety Kevin Byard said they allowed Brady to control the game.

"We didn't play well enough to give our offense a chance," Byard said. "We were giving up too much, especially on early downs."

He said New England's 31 first downs stood out.

"(Brady) definitely outplayed us tonight."

Eagles use goal-line stand, Elliott FGs to beat Falcons

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Fly Eagles Fly.

With the wind and against it.

With Nick Foles engineering several long drives, Jake Elliott converting three field goals, and the defense getting stingy in the tightest spot, Philadelphia moved into the NFC championship game with a 15-10 victory over the Atlanta Falcons on Saturday.

Foles directed brilliant marches of 74 and 80 yards in the second half—one into the whipping wind, the other with it—and Elliott atoned for missing an extra point by converting from 53 yards at the end of the second quarter, 37 and 21 in the second half. Then the Eagles (14-3) held when Atlanta (11-7) got to the 9-yard line with a first down, and to the 2 on fourth down.

When Matt Ryan's final

pass sailed over Julio Jones' head in the end zone, Philly could celebrate its first playoff victory since the 2008 season.

Next Sunday, the Eagles will host either Minnesota or New Orleans for the conference crown. The Eagles last made the Super Bowl in the 2004 season, losing to New England.

"I mean, we just kept believing in each other," said Foles, who became the starter when Carson Wentz, a leading MVP contender, injured his knee in December. "That was it. Our team never wavered, defense did an amazing job, special teams—that's just been the story this year is that we just all stuck together..."

The Falcons, of course, memorably blew a 28-3 second-half lead to the Patriots in last year's Super Bowl. They

will not get the opportunity to atone for it, though Ryan got them close at the end.

Despite being underdogs as the No. 1 seed, the Eagles showed plenty of moxie.

"Just keep on disrespecting and we're going to keep proving people wrong," receiver Alshon Jeffery said.

A masterful 74-yard, 12-play drive on which Foles threw for 70 yards led to Elliott's 37-yard kick into the wind that made it 12-10. The Eagles then put together their best drive, an 80-yarder covering 14 plays, yet again faltered close to the end zone. Elliott added a 21-yarder with 6:02 remaining after coach Doug Pederson briefly considered going for it on fourth-and-1 at the Atlanta 3.

"It was tricky out there, really gusty," Elliott said.

Then, as the fans in the Lincoln Financial Field held their breath, the Eagles held deep in their territory.

"Man, just stay calm," said defensive tackle Fletcher Cox, who was a force all day. "We always talk about that. We've been in those situations during the regular season, so we kind of know how to handle those situations, not try to make a play but let the play come to us."

And the road to the Super Bowl remains through Philly.

Falcons coach Dan Quinn could have opted to take the wind in the fourth quarter after deferring on the opening coin toss. Instead, he took the ball to start the second half, but it was the Eagles who got the only points of the third period.

And in the end, Atlanta had to deal with the currents on that final drive, which did in-

clude a 20-yard completion to Jones on fourth-and-6.

"It was a tough game for us tonight," Quinn said, "and as we go through, we will go back and assess everything we have done."

Mistakes hurt the Eagles in the opening half. Jay Ajayi's fumble and a misplayed punt that bounced off Bryan Braman led to all 10 Atlanta points.

Things began nicely for Philadelphia when safety Brian Poole was tagged with pass interference on a deep pass by Foles that was held up by the wind. But Ajayi fumbled on the next play with Keanu Neal recovering.

Atlanta efficiently mixed runs and passes to drive to Matt Bryant's 33-yard field goal for an early lead.

Philadelphia got the run game going with Ajayi in the

opening period. Then, with the wind in the next quarter, the Eagles kept the Falcons so off-balance Atlanta took two timeouts in three plays.

Receiver Nelson Agholor's 21-yard run got the ball to the 3, and Foles botched a hand-off to Corey Clement. But the quarterback quickly dived on the loose ball and was ruled to have scored. Replay showed otherwise.

Pederson showed no hesitation going for it, and Blount surged in from the 1. Elliott's missed extra point left it 6-3.

Soon after came Matt Boshers' punt that took a wicked bounce and hit Braman while he was blocking. From the Philly 18, the Falcons benefited from two penalties before Ryan scrambled from pressure and found Devonta Freeman for a 6-yard TD and a 10-3 lead.

Fiesta holds off *Marianas Variety*; Sun Palace wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and Sun Palace registered contrasting wins to remain in the Top 3 of the team standings in their respective divisions in the 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament.

Sun Palace coasted to a 66-38 victory over the 670 Sonics XVII in the boys division game, while Fiesta Resort nosed out *Marianas Variety* in the women's division tiff, 36-33, last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

With its 28-point winning margin, Sun Palace now has a 4-1 record to stay at No. 3 in the rankings in the eight-team field and boost its playoff chances. Only the Top 4 squad will advance to the playoffs after the elimination round. The 670 Sonics XVII is in danger of not making the cut, as it fell to a 1-4 slate for sixth place in

the team standings.

Christian Morales led Sun Palace's lopsided win after firing 27 points. He broke loose in the second half, drilling 17 points to anchor Sun Palace's breakaway. Angelo Factor and Sunjoon Tenorio had 14 and 10 markers, respectively, to back Morales up.

Before its dominance in the second half, Sun Palace was ahead by only 5 at the break, 27-22. The 670 Sonics XVII then fell way behind when it failed to contain Morales and had only Christian Bravo hitting his target.

In the second game, Fiesta Resort played steadier in the home stretch, while *Marianas Variety* missed a couple of free throws.

Fiesta Resort was up, 35-31, with less than 30 seconds left, when *Marianas Variety* had opportunities to tie the match as Mikki Kautz and Louisa Han made it to the 15-foot line. However, Kautz and Han only split their charities, allowing Fiesta Resort to keep the shaky lead, 35-33, Fiesta Resort, after Han muffed her



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Marianas Variety's Louisa Han, left, throws a pass to a teammate, while Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Guine Borja steps in on defense during the closing seconds of their game in the 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

second charity, grabbed the rebound and used the clock before *Marianas Variety* finally fouled Irish Pagarao, down to the last 1.9 seconds.

Pagarao knocked in the first charity for the insurance and missed the second one. Players from the opposing teams then fought for the rebound and none of them had clear possession as time expire.

Pagarao led all scorers with her 16 points and handed Fiesta Resort a 5-2 record for second place in the team standings. *Marianas Variety*

dropped to a 3-4 slate, but remains at No. 4 in the six-squad field, which will award playoff berths only to the Top 4 finishers after the double-round robin elimination.

First Game

Sun Palace 66 — Morales 27, Factor 14, Tenorio 10, Kim 6, Hahn 2, Galarion 2, Hinson 2, Santiago 1.

670 Sonics XVII 38 — Bravo 12, Caruana 6, Francisco 6, Diyco 4, Linaogo 2, Danford 2, Ejercito 2, Ben 2.

Scoring by halves: 27-22, 66-38.

Second Game

Fiesta Resort 36 — Pagarao 16, Tuazon 7, Borja 6, Lee 3, Villagomez 3, Joyce 2, Wally 2.

***Marianas Variety* 33** — Kautz 11, Flores 7, Villagomez 6, Chinen 3, Han 2, Reyes 2.

Scoring by halves: 22-19, 36-33.

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to hard training after earning a historic first UFC win against Damien Brown, via split decision, two months ago in UFC Fight Night 121: Werdum VS. Tybura at the Qudos Bank Arena in Sydney, Australia.

The Marianas pride, like Dober, lost his first UFC fight when he took on Jingliang Li of China in UFC Fight Night 111: Holm VS Correa on June 17 last year. Before stepping on the UFC stage, Camacho began his MMA career on Saipan, fighting locally in Trench Warz and then moving to the Pacific Xtreme Combat and Gerran Haga in Guam. He also saw action in the Universal Reality Combat Championship in the Philippines, and the Ultimate Warrior Challenge in Virginia.

He is now on his third UFC fight as he works on his dream of earning a spot in one of the

big time bouts in Las Vegas.

Camacho-Brown in UFC Top 10

Camacho's split decision win over Brown was ranked fifth in the UFC's Top 10 Fights of 2017, ahead of the George St. Pierre-Michael Bisping match that came in ninth.

The 28-year-old Marianas fighter thanked Brown for the honor as the Australian also gave it his all in their explosive match in front of a sellout crowd in New South Wales.

"It wouldn't have been possible without Brown. He is an Australian Army veteran. There's definitely no quitting in him," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

"It's very humbling and for me personally, it's a milestone because I knew that this is what I wanted to do in my life. I'm so passionate about it and the UFC fans around the world really appreciated and voted for us because of the island fighting spirit," he added.

CONATSU

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of their title duel last Saturday were unavailable at the tournament's website at press time. The top-seeded duo had an easier semis win after needing only two sets to eliminate the unranked Erin Lawless and Shalee Jayde Martin, 6-3, 6-4. Maljanek and Peart, who got a bye in the opening round, also cruised past Samoa's Penina Kamu and Tessa Quinlan in the quarterfinals, 6-0, 6-4, to complete the Final Four cast.

Meanwhile, another CNMI junior player entered in the Victorian tournament, Sean

Lee, marched into the finals, too, of the consolation group in the qualifier.

Lee, who missed making it to the main draw of the boys U14 singles after losing his opening game, won four matches in the consolation group to earn the right to face Australia's Maxwell Prest in the final round. Lee first downed Liam Ragas-Judd, 6-4, 6-2, and then defeated No. 11 Jacob Collison, 7-6, 6-2; Rhodes Dumanis, 6-4, 2-6, 10-4; and No. 10 Alexandre Jaulin, 2-6, 6-1, 10-7. After notching four straight wins, Lee's streak was ended by Prest, who swept the Commonwealth player, 6-2, 6-1.

Astros heat up hot stove by acquiring Pirates ace Cole



HOUSTON (AP)—The Houston Astros already had two Cy Young winners on their staff. They're hoping Gerrit Cole can make it three.

The World Series champions boosted their rotation with another big arm, acquiring Cole from the Pittsburgh Pirates in a five-player trade Saturday.

The Pirates got right-handers Joe Musgrove and Michael Feliz, third baseman Colin Moran and outfielder Jason Martin for their 27-year-old ace.

Cole will join All-Stars Dallas Keuchel and Justin Verlander on a team that just won its first crown. Houston breezed to the AL West title with 101 wins, and went on to beat the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 7 of the World Series.

Cole went 12-12 with a 4.26 ERA last season, by far the worst ERA of his five-year career. The No. 1 overall

pick in the 2011 draft was an All-Star in 2015 but hasn't replicated those results the past two seasons. Astros general manager Jeff Luhnow thinks pitching coach Brent Strom can help Cole recapture that form.

"We expect him to bounce back and be a Cy Young contender," Luhnow said.

The New York Yankees had been among the teams mentioned in trade talks involving Cole. There hadn't been a lot of movement this winter on baseball's hot stove, but this deal could get things cooking. Luhnow said Houston first spoke to Pittsburgh about Cole last July, and the teams have been hammering out this package since the winter meetings.

Chris Archer, Michael Fulmer, Matt Harvey and other prominent starters have had their names tossed around in recent swap speculation.

Cole tied for the NL lead with 33 starts, was third in

innings (203) and 10th in strikeouts (196). He is 59-42 with a 3.50 ERA in five major league seasons, including 19-8 in 2015.

"This move gives us a better chance over the next two years to repeat and hopefully get another championship," Luhnow said.

On Friday, Cole and the Pirates reached agreement on a one-year contract worth \$6.75 million. He had one year of arbitration remaining and was likely to command a huge raise in 2019, one of the reasons the Pirates had considered trading him.

"Trading Gerrit Cole was not an easy decision. We are very appreciative for what Gerrit has done for our team and organization, especially his important role on the 2013-15 playoff teams," Pirates general manager Neal Huntington said in a statement.

"Acquiring these four quality young players, three of whom we project to be an im-

portant part of our 2018 team, with many years of potential contribution, is an important step for us as we work toward bringing playoff baseball back to our fans," he said.

The Pirates have slumped badly since those three straight postseason appearances. They dipped to 78-83 in 2016, then slid to 75-87 last year.

Luhnow characterized Cole's acquisition as having a "significant cost" because the Astros "love" the four players they're giving up. Musgrove, Moran and Feliz have already appeared in the major leagues and should contribute in Pittsburgh almost immediately.

Musgrove could take over Cole's spot in the rotation. The 25-year-old has made 25 starts and 49 appearances with Houston over the past two seasons. He's 11-12 with a 4.77 ERA in that time, but finished out 2017 by posting a 1.44 ERA over 31 1/3 innings of relief.

FALCONS

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the battle for third this Thursday.

Downm 3-2, entering the bottom of the sixth, Gerald Cabrera got on base on an error by Pirates third baseman T.J. Dela Cruz to lead things off for the Falcons. Ian Norita singled and Barry Sunumai reached first on another Pirates error, this time by second baseman Jobi Reyes. The Falcons then grabbed the lead, 4-3, on runs scored by Cabrera and Norita off Jay Kalen's two-RBI single.

Sunumai, still with no out, added another run on a wild pitch, while Kalen reached home on an RBI credited to J.J. Lifofoi, who

later pushed the Falcons' lead to 7-3 after scoring off a RBI double by Frankie Lifofoi. Frankie was tagged out at the plate for the first out, while A.J. Evangelista, who also had a double, was caught heading to third.

Cabrera, in his second plate appearance in the sixth, had a two-RBI single, bringing Frankie Lieto and Peter Lieto home, while Norita struck out to end the inning.

Frankie Lieto tossed a complete game for the Falcons, giving up one earned run on seven hits. He fanned out seven and had no walks.

IPI Masters win

Ed Santos pitched a two-hit

ball in a shortened game to help the IPI Masters coast to victory over the Papa Bears, 19-2, in their battle for third place in the Masters division.

Santos was almost unhittable on the mound, only giving up singles to Joe Celis and Emery Fitial in the top of the first and fourth inning, respectively. The lefty pitcher was tagged with two runs, both earned, while striking out four and walking four.

The Bears, on the other hand, used three pitchers with Nick Guerrero, Tom Camacho, and Benji Fitial alternating on the mound. All lasted an inning each.

Guerrero started for the

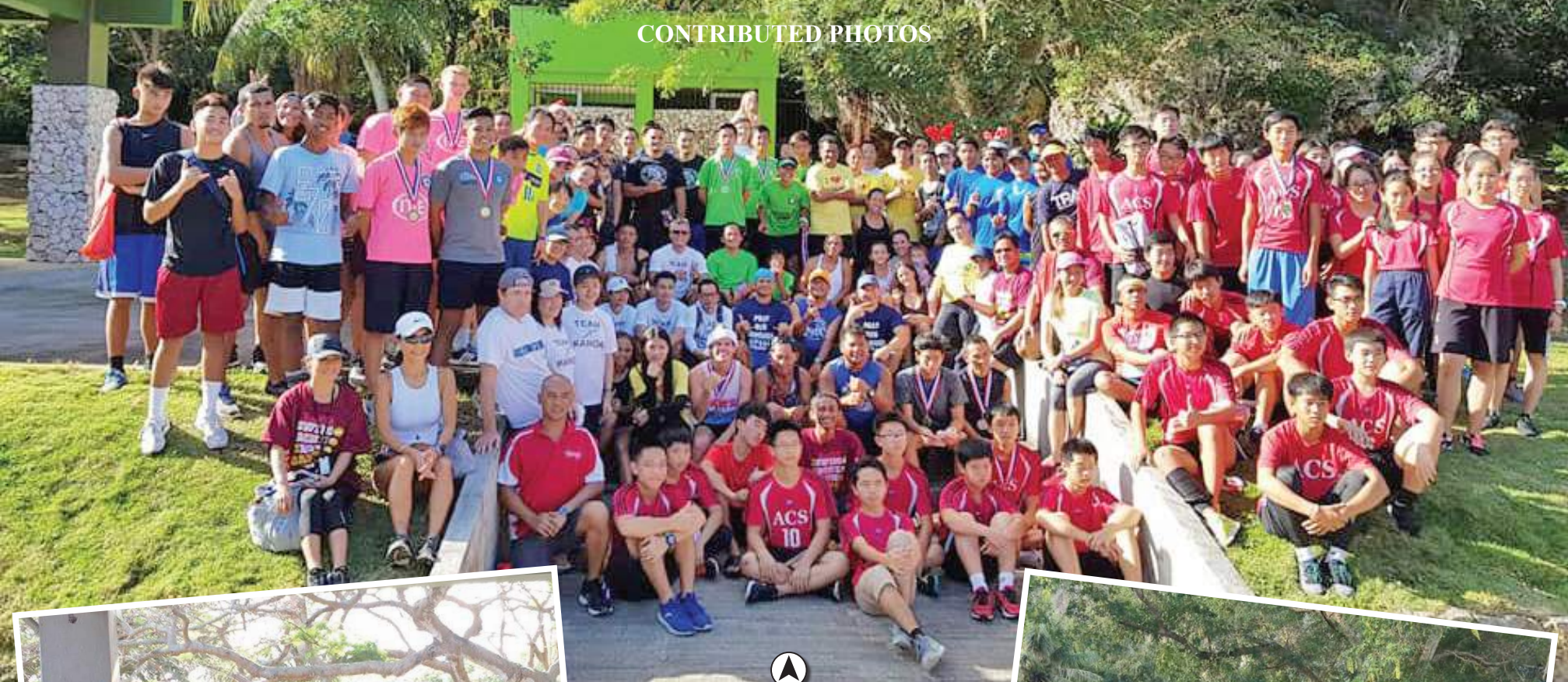
Bears, giving up four runs—all earned—on three hits with no strikeouts, and three walks. Camacho allowed five ERs on three hits while fanning two and walking four batters.

Benji Fitial came in at the bottom of the third and was tagged with three ERs on four hits, a strikeout, and a walk.

Phil Celis led IPI's 10-hit game, going 3-for-3 with two runs, while John Acosta went 2-for-2, including a two-RBI single in a seven-run first inning. Former representative Ralph Yumul also went 2-for-2 with two runs, a double, and an RBI, while J.J. Cabrera had three RBIs, including a two-RBI triple in the second.

36th Annual Christmas Island Relay Winners and Finishers

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Finishers and organizers of the 36th Annual Christmas Island Relay pose for a photo at the conclusion of last month's event at the Last Command Post.

TRAC-sponsored runners gather for a group photo.

Northern Marianas Athletics official Robin Sapong, right, joins TanHoldings runners, who placed first in the youth division.



TanHoldings runners pose with their medals and Kanoa Resort runner Ador Dimaano.



A runner takes a video footage of their finish.



Kanoa Resort runners celebrate after completing the 13.7-mile course.



Solo finisher Ronald Villafria, left, heads back to the finish line in Marpi to accompany a Kanoa Resort runner.



Kanoa Resort runners hold hands as they make their way to the finish line.



Randle lifts Lakers
past Mavericks in
overtime

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Patriots back in
AFC title game after
crushing Titans

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Conatsu enters doubles finals



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior player Conatsu Kaga secured a finals berth in the girls U14 doubles event in the Victorian Grass Court Championships in Australia.

Kaga and her teammate Zorika Morgan of the Solomon Islands stunned two seeded pairs to make it to the title match of the division. The Pacific Oceania players first pulled the rug under No. 2 seed Chloe Anne Brereton and Grace Fountain, prevailing in three extended quarterfinals game last Thursday at the Wodonga Tennis Centre in Victoria. Kaga and Morgan eked out a 6-4 win in the opening set, but missed a sweep when their Australian opponents took the second, 6-3. Then in the deciding super-tiebreaker third set, Kaga and Morgan worked their way up to the ladder and escaped with a 10-8 triumph to complete the upset and advance to the semifinals.

In the Final Four game at the lower half of the draw, Kaga and Morgan, who swept Abbey Mcphee and Patsy



Pamela Ryan-Betts in their first game, 6-1, 6-3, were pitted against No. 3 Aaloyah Da Silva and Erica Renee Sarnacki. Again,

the two visiting players had to go through a tough match to survive the semis and move into the finals. Kaga and Morgan got the first set, 6-4, but were smoked by their rivals in the second, 1-6. In the decider, the CNMI-Solomon Island players pairing showed poise after posting a thrilling 10-8 victory.

Kaga and Morgan were scheduled to face No. 1 seed Mystique Maljanek and Laura Peart in the finals, but results

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Conatsu Kaga, seen here getting ready to serve in a local tournament, made it to the girls U14 doubles finals of the Victorian Grass Court Championships in Australia.

Falcons clinch finals berth in U25

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Tanapag Falcons used a seven-run sixth inning in completing a come-from-behind

9-3 win against the IPI Pirates on Thursday night to clinch the first finals berth in the Saipan Baseball League Under-25 division last



Thursday at the Francisco M. Palacios Ballfield.

The Falcons will play in the one-game finals on Friday against the winner of the other semifinals pairing

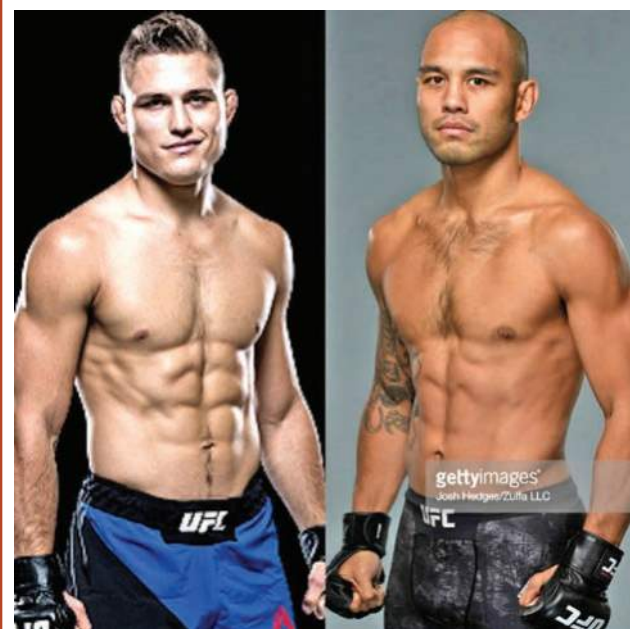
between the GSM Cubs and the Blue Jays. The Cubs and Blue Jays will duel for the last finals ticket tomorrow and the loser will go up against the Pirates in

See FALCONS on Page 26



JON PEREZ

Members of the IPI Masters celebrate their third place finish after beating the Papa Bears, 19-2, in the Masters division of the Saipan Baseball League last Friday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Ballfield.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Frank "The Crank" Camacho, right, will take on Drew Dober in UFC ON FOX: Jacare VS Brunson 2 on Jan. 27 at the Spectrum Center in Charlotte, North Carolina.

'Crank' to face Dober on Jan. 27

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Frank "The Crank" Camacho is expected to have his hands full when he takes on another Ultimate Fighting Championship veteran in Drew Dober of Omaha, Nebraska, two weeks from now for UFC ON FOX 27: Jacare VS Brunson 2.

The Camacho-Dober match will open an 11-fight undercard with the Ronaldo Souza-Derek Brunson bout set as the main event on Jan. 27 at the Spectrum Center in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Camacho (21-5 with 15 knockouts) and Dober (18-8 with 4 KOs) looked even on paper with the latter earning a slight advantage by fighting in the UFC since 2013.

Dober turned pro on July 24, 2009 in Victory Fighting Championship 28: Throw-

down where he defeated Frank Caraballo by TKO. He also saw action in other mixed martial arts promotions like Fight To Win, Bellator MMA, Titan FC, Disorderly Conduct, and Centurion Fights.

The 29-year-old Denver-based Elevation Fight Team member dropped his UFC debut against Sean Spencer in UFC: The Ultimate Fighter 18 Finale on Nov. 30, 2013. He lost by unanimous decision in the second bout that featured Nate Diaz beating Gray Maynard in the headliner.

Camacho, on the other hand, has slowly went back

See 'CRANK' on Page 26

